Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-237 *9 December 1994*

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Outgoing Envoy Urges OAS To Address Poverty *[CANA]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Havana Notes Miami 'Reality' on Eve of Summit *[Havana Radio]* 2
NGO's Send Recommendations, Declarations to Summit *[Havana Radio]* 2
Controversy Over Miami Summit, Migration Reported *[Havana TV]* 2
U.S. Seeks to 'Increase Grip' on Latin America With Summit *[Havana Radio]* 3
Article Says Countries Taking United Position to Miami *[PRENSA LATINA]* 4
Radio Havana Reports Rafter Rioting in Panama Camps *[Havana Radio]* 4
U.S. Spokeswoman Cited *[Havana Radio]* 5
Foreign Minister Begins Official Visit to Tunisia *[Havana Radio]* 5
Government Presents 4 Draft Resolutions on UN Agenda *[PRENSA LATINA]* 5
DPRK Military Delegation Departs *[Havana TV]* 6
Castro Construction Workers Day Address *[Havana Radio]* 6
Castro Praises Hotel, Says Revolution Will Prevail *[PRENSA LATINA]* 11
Castro on Role of Culture at Awards Ceremony *[Havana Radio]* 11

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Aims of Caricom Leaders at Miami Summit Noted *[CANA]* 11

Bahamas

Prime Minister on Expectations for Summit *[Nassau Radio]* 12
Delegation Named *[Nassau Radio]* 13

Haiti

Aristide Heads Delegation for Summit; Cited on Expectations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Movement 'Satisfied' With Aristide's 'New Ideology' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Aristide Installs Economic Growth Commission 7 Dec *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Legislators Consider Form Electoral Council To Take *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13

Jamaica

Jamaican Envoy Satisfied With U.S. Position on Bananas *[CANA]* 13
Minister Signs Rice Accord, Thanks U.S. *[CANA]* 14

MEXICO

Report Details Zedillo's Activities at Summit *[Mexico City TV]* 15
Marcos Responds to Zedillo's Inaugural Address *[LA JORNADA 7 Dec]* 15
Chiapas Governor-Elect on Poverty, Unemployment *[Mexico City TV]* 20
EZLN Disavows Chiapas Governor-Elect *[LA JORNADA 7 Dec]* 20
Inauguration of Robledo as Chiapas Governor Takes Place 21
Tight Security Implemented *[Mexico City Radio]* 21
Robledo Promises Electoral Law, Constitution *[Mexico City Radio]* 21
Zedillo Gives Speech *[Mexico City TV]* 21
Opposition Shadow Governor Sworn In *[Mexico City Radio]* 22

Rebel Governor Interviewed *[Mexico City Radio]* 23
Marcos Calls For Unity of Democratic Convention *[LA JORNADA 7 Dec]* 25
Zapatist Northern Army Sends Message of Support to EZLN *[EL FINANCIERO 6 Dec]* 26
Zedillo Administration Makes New Appointments *[Mexico City TV]* 26
Zedillo Holds Dialogue With Deputies *[Mexico City Radio]* 26
Senators React to Zedillo Proposal for Justice Reform *[Mexico City Radio]* 28
PGR Arrests Alleged Matamoros Cartel 'Strong Arm' *[NOTIMEX]* 29

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

President Says Cuba's Exclusion From Summit Appropriate *[Hamburg DPA]* 30
Wants Discussion of Immigration *[San Salvador TV]* 30

Guatemala

President To Travel to Miami Summit *[NOTIMEX]* 30

Nicaragua

Chamorro To Discuss Proposition 187 With Clinton *[ACAN]* 30

Panama

Group of Cuban Rafters Stages Protest in Camp No. 1 *[LA PRENSA 8 Dec]* 31
Police Set Up Roadblocks *[Panama City TV]* 31
Public Security Council on Alert *[Panama City TV]* 32
Police Head, Presidential Advisor Comment *[Panama City TV]* 32
Head of Cuban Refugees Association on Departure for Madrid *[Panama City TV]* 33
Panama Accedes to Inter-American Penal Convention *[LA PRENSA 7 Dec]* 34
Opposition Parties Refuse To Sign Bambito III Agreements *[PRENSA LIBRE 7 Sep]* 34

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Joint Exercises Conducted With Brazilian Navy *[TELAM]* 36

Bolivia

President Leaves for Miami Summit *[Madrid EFE]* 36
UCS Leader Accuses President of Tax Evasion *[La Paz TV]* 36
'Sources' Criticize 'Indecision' on Military Law *[LOS TIEMPOS 1 Dec]* 36
Official Says Institutions Laundering Money *[HOY 1 Dec]* 37
MNR Wants MIR Members Tried for Drug Links *[La Paz TV]* 37

Brazil

Official Sees Trade as 'Main Issue' at Summit *[Brasilia Radio]* 38
Commentator Views 'Grandiose' Goals at Summit *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 38
Senate Delays Vote on GATT Accords *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 39
Navy Intervenes in Nuclear Submarine Construction *[CORREIO BRAZILIENSE 3 Nov]* 40
Cardoso Seeks Approval of Public Services Bill *[O GLOBO 4 Dec]* 40
Franco 'Officially' Appoints Central Bank Chief *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 41
Cardoso Names Giomi Federal Budget Secretary *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 6 Dec]* 41
Workers Party To 'Soften' Terms of Opposition *[AGENCIA ESTADO]* 42
Experts Confirm Congressmen's Phones 'Tapped' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 7 Dec]* 42

Colombia

Council Approves Downing of 'Hostile Aircraft' *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 42
Minister Speaks on Rural Security Cooperatives *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 43
Development Minister on Social Pact Talks *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 43
Attorney General Calls For Discipline of Generals *[EL TIEMPO 24 Nov, etc.]* 45

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Flies to Miami Summit Despite Doctor's Warning *[Quito Radio]* 45

Paraguay

President Wasmosy Leaves for Americas Summit *[Asuncion TV]* 45
EU Vice President Visits To Discuss Cooperation *[ABC COLOR 7 Dec]* 45
Says Democratic Process Fares Well *[Madrid EFE]* 46
Minister Says Armed Forces Obey Disciplinary Measures *[ULTIMA HORA 5 Dec]* 46

Peru

President Fujimori Leaves for Summit *[Lima Radio]* 47
Perez de Cuellar Opens Presidential Campaign *[LA REPUBLICA 27 Nov]* 47
Iridium 192 Radioisotopes To Be Exported *[EXPRESO 30 Nov]* 48
Cabinet Ministers Defend 1995 Budget *[EL PERUANO 26 Nov]* 48
Documents Reveal 'Demoralization' of Terrorists *[EXPRESO 25 Nov]* 49

Uruguay

Congress Approves Uruguay Round of GATT Talks *[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO 3 Dec]* . 49
Sanguinetti Calls On Political Sector for Cooperation *[TELAM]* 49
Sanguinetti's Economic Team Outlines Future Policy *[TELAM]* 50
Composition of Chamber of Deputies Examined *[EL PAIS 29 Nov]* 51

Venezuela

Caldera Discusses Summit at News Conference *[EL UNIVERSAL 7 Dec]* 52
To Depart for U.S. *[Caracas TV]* 54
Congress Ratifies Group of Three Agreement *[Caracas Radio]* 55
Caldera Addresses Nation on Summit, Economy *[Caracas Radio, TV]* 55

Guyana

President Opens Party Congress, Warns of 'External Forces' *[CANA]* 57
More on Jagan's Plans To Discuss Poverty at Miami Summit *[Bridgetown TV]* 58

Outgoing Envoy Urges OAS To Address Poverty

FL0912001294 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, D.C., Dec 8, CANA—Barbados' Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States (OAS), Ambassador Rudi Webster, on Thursday called on that regional body "to become a catalyst for change" and to "stimulate governments to deal seriously with the problem" of increasing poverty in the Caribbean and Latin America. "I believe the extent of poverty in our region is worse than that in India and Pakistan," Dr. Webster told a session of the Permanent Council of the OAS.

The occasion was a farewell function for the Barbadian envoy, during which ambassadors from Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States hailed his achievements at the end of his three-year mission as representative before the inter-American organisation.

"There will never be lasting peace unless people within nations have security in their daily lives. The key to human security is human development, the most important components being good education, good health care, good governance and sound economic policies," Dr. Webster said. In this context, he warned that today's conflicts were changing rapidly from conflicts between states to conflicts within states. "Of the 82 armed conflicts between 1989 and 1992, only three were between states, the other 79 were within states...and the underlying causes were poverty, political and economic disparity and inequity," he noted.

The Barbadian diplomat, a distinguished medical doctor and specialist in human development, urged the OAS and the United Nations to deal effectively with these new realities. "How will the OAS and for that matter the United Nations deal with these new realities? Should these two organisations rely solely on yesterday's messages and solutions to solve the new problems of today and tomorrow or should they design new solutions and approaches?" he asked.

Members of the permanent council joined in praising Ambassador Webster for his many contributions to inter-American relations and particularly for gaining the admission of Barbados into the Inter- American Defense Board, opening the way for other Caribbean nations to join that agency.

Speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) nations, Haiti, Suriname and Canada, St. Lucian envoy Joseph Edmunds highlighed two areas of the OAS which Webster has been able to impact. "One is the introduction of his country, Barbados, into the Inter-American Defense Board. This was for the Caribbean a tremendous breakthrough because it did not come very easily", said Ambassador Edmunds. "Ambassador Webster had to make compassionate speeches and finally his country was able to enter this defense board and I think the Caribbean, with increased participation in this board, will make it more relevant to the present day and to the situation, rather than a close shop of a few persons", he added.

"Another very significant event was his leadership role in the staging of the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

"You have made a tremendous contribution to the global aspect as it relates to the predicament of small island developing states and I hope that this organisation will address this issue in a very serious way as we go around talking about free trade and other aspects," the St. Lucian diplomat told the outgoing Ambassador of Barbados.

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Cuba

Havana Notes Miami 'Reality' on Eve of Summit

FL0812172194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Daily many press agencies report on the world summit's magnificence and of the preparation of its setting, Miami. However, it seems that they have forgotten things that make up that city's everyday life.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Congressman Jose Serrano stated that he had been called a traitor over the phone and that he had been threatened merely for having openly stated that he was against the embargo imposed on Cuba. He declared: It is logical to look towards Miami when these threats occur. On 5 September, the Miami police extinguished the flames caused by two Molotov cocktails that had been thrown at the offices of REPLICA magazine. The magazine's editor Max Lesnik supports an improvement in the relations between Cuba and the United States. After the incident, Lesnik stated: This act is the expression of an irrational beast that is in conflict with reason and intelligence. [end recording]

This information is not the only thing that proves a reality. The following testimony is also proof of what is happening in Miami:

November 1994, the Pastors for Peace's Caravan in Miami readies to depart. In a warehouse there are approximately 15 tonnes of medicine and food for Cuba. This shipment was nearly burned. The individuals responsible for this were arrested and the complaint came quickly:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] It is incredible. Three people who had a gasoline bomb—capable of destroying at least a whole neighborhood—have been set free on bail. They are trained in this city and they have acquired their firearms in this city. They place all of our lives in danger and they block political debate on these issues here in this city, because everyone knows these things are happening in this city. In this city these people are armed and they are quite capable of acting.... [end recording]

That is the way things are in Miami, only 72 hours away from the opening of the world summit.

NGO's Send Recommendations, Declarations to Summit

FL0812025894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Non-governmental organizations [NGO's] of this hemisphere will send to the Summit of the Americas a document containing declarations and recommendations. The document is signed by 70 Latin American, Canadian, and American NGO's, as well as three Cuban organizations, including the Cuban Ecumenical Council, The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, and the Felix Varela Center. Juan Antonio Blanco, director of the Felix Varela Center, explained the content of the document during a news conference:

[Begin Blanco recording] How can the poor and traditionally excluded peoples attain an integral role in economic development to directly attack the poverty and inequality pervading the hemisphere? Programs against poverty should not be treated merely as another issue within strategies for development. The poor, small farmers, and businessmen should be treated as potential producers of wealth and engines of economic growth.

Critical issues, such as food, security, land ownership, and agrarian policies affecting the majority of the farmers in the region should also be discussed. [end recording]

The issue of Cuba is also included among the concerns of these organizations.

[Begin Blanco recording] We are particularly concerned with the intentional exclusion of one country from the summit—Cuba. We believe that the long conflict between the United States and Cuba can and ought to be resolved quickly through peaceful means. [end recording]

The organizations requested participation in the summit, at least as observers, but the White House denied their request. Therefore, Cuba is not the only exclusion. So are the NGO's of this hemisphere.

Controversy Over Miami Summit, Migration Reported

FL0912030994 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called Summit of the Americas, scheduled to open in Miami on 9 December, is the third such meeting this century. The fact that important issues have been left off the agenda, among other things, has stirred much controversy. One of these issues is migration.

A total of 22 million Latinos live in the United States, subjected to a growing xenophobia embodied in California's Proposition 187. This proposition is designed to prevent illegal aliens and their children from receiving health and education services. The United States is committed to forced departure programs, which could result in the deportation of almost 200,000 Latinos.

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Under these circumstances, Latin activists decry the fact that migration is not included in the Miami summit agenda and that it will not be included in the final declaration. They deplore the fact that the opportunity to get more out of the U.S. Administration in this area will be missed. However, Mexico is the only country which has shown an interest in including the migration issue in the Miami summit agenda and has pointed out that Proposition 187 is not the solution.

Latin congressmen plan to meet with visiting heads of state to coordinate activities [words indistinct].

U.S. Seeks to 'Increase Grip' on Latin America With Summit

FL0812183394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. Tomorrow the Summit of the Americas begins in the least suitable city in North America: Miami. Mountains of information, articles, and reports have already been written on the subject. Many analysts view it as the beginning of a new era for the continent under the leadership of the United States; others speak of the possible creation of a free trade zone by 2005; some refer to the role the OAS will have in the redesignation of a new America be constructed under the principle of the so-called hemispheric convergence theory, and the collective defense of democracy, now that the cold war is over.

The 32 Latin American and Caribbean heads of state and government are meeting by mandate of the most powerful nation in the world, with common needs and problems, yes, but alienated, lacking coordination, and under the enormous disadvantage of economic and political dependence. In 1994, the same scenario that Marti described on 12 November, 1889, in his letter to the Buenos Aires newspaper LA NACION regarding the international congress of Washington, will be repeated. At the time, Marti said: Regarding the independence of America, there has never been a matter requiring more good sense, more vigilance, or closer scrutiny, than the invitation of the powerful United States, which is full of unmarketable products and is determined to expand its grip on less powerful nations in America, end of quote. Unfortunately, in the 105 years since, there is no doubt that the United States has strengthened its hold on Latin America, has allied itself with an oligarchic class and financial sectors linked to transnational capital, and that they are the ones who today control Latin American politics and who are inclined to increase submission to the U.S., if it serves their interests. They are the supporters of neoliberalism, of people living in poverty, ultimately, of the environment in which our America exists today.

The main danger now is based on the fact that the United States seeks to consolidate this hold, in a world becoming more and more capitalistic, and make America its exclusive zone, even though all this is disguised with calls to democracy, to the fight for human rights, health, and education of those south of the Rio Bravo. The saddest thing is that they have allies in those very Latin American nations; I am not talking about the governments, even though they are U.S. allies. The OAS appears to be tagged to consolidate the United States' grip. Since December of 1992, the OAS has had an amendment that authorizes punishing any state or member considered to be divergent from the democratic standards dictated by Washington. In the near future, the OAS may also have its own intervention forces, a type of blue helmets like the United Nations. U.S. Secretary of Defense Warren Christopher holds the hope that after the Miami Summit an informal consultation mechanism between the U.S. military and South American military can be created. Actually, this informal mechanism has been in existence for a long time in the Interamerican Defense Council—which recently met almost in secret—and the issues they debate are very little publicized.

All of this relates perfectly to the so-called hemispheric convergence theory. The United States Government interprets this theory as Latin American and the Caribbean acceptance of the principles of U.S. foreign policy; that is to say, the defense of U.S. interests. In accordance with this theory, the OAS would have to expand its activities to solidify what they call the culture of democracy in the region. There is also talk of revising the traditional focus on the principle of nonintervention. These positions coincide perfectly with the attempts, on a world scale, to change the rules that have governed international relations, that is to say, the principle of national sovereignty and of nonintervention into internal matters of states—the base of coexistence between governments.

All of this, in one form or the other, will be discussed at the Miami summit. For many, it has recently become too late to avoid these dangers; as Marti said in his previously mentioned article: What is seen should not be exaggerated, nor twisted, nor kept quiet; the dangers should not be recognized when they are upon you, but rather when you can avoid them. The first thing in politics is to clarify and to anticipate.

The Summit of the Americas begins tomorrow, perhaps the United States will obtain its objective of consolidating its domination. I would like to think not, but wishing for unrealities is not the best option for reasoning. I think that several leaders will oppose these aspirations when they are able, and others will not. Marti said that the people should have one pillory for those who drive them to useless hatreds and another for those who don't tell them the truth on time. Maybe Latin America will need many pillories after the Summit of the Americas, or maybe not. Time will tell.

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Article Says Countries Taking United Position to Miami

PA0912042494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spansh 2113 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Article by Raymundo Reynoso: "Latin America Attends the Miami Summit More United"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Miami, 8 Dec (Pl)—Throughout history, there have been many attempts to achieve the political and economic integration of the countries of America.

Approximately 179 years ago, Simon Bolivar was already proposing the need for a united continent, although the liberator viewed as fundamental the prior union of the Latin American nations.

On 6 September 1815, while living in exile, Bolivar, in his Letter of Jamaica, one of the fundamental documents of the continent's history, wrote: "More than anyone else, I wish to see America turned into the greatest nation of the world, not because of its extension or wealth but because of its liberty and glory."

This fatherland desired by the Liberator would be, according to the text written in Kingston, "united from within and would face the outside world with a single voice."

Although not as the Liberator had imagined, the Latin American nations are arriving here with definite collective objectives.

In light of the invitation issued by the United States to the governments of the region, with the exception of Cuba, the Latin American countries took the bull by the horns. Moreover, they did so in a united way.

The Group of Three, formed by Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia, the Rio Group, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and even the Central American nations announced that their proposals would be taken as a package to the Miami summit.

After Clinton's announcement, a group of representatives of member countries of the Rio Group met in Brasilia with U.S. officials to agree on some points that will very probably appear in the final draft of the documents that will emerge from the Miami summit.

The Latin American bloc, after its meeting with Alexander Watson, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, announced that topics such as commerce, investments, types of financing, and technology, and the adoption of specific measures of hemispheric cooperation, wuold be pillars of the agreements.

The Central American nations have adopted their position and will bring to the summit their own views. To begin with, they want the United States to promise to analyze a renewed trade opening.

In El Salvador, Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria warned that in attending this continental meeting, "our objective is to present a joint position defending the region's right to free trade with North America."

During the recent inauguration of Ernesto Zedillo in Mexico, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina said the Central American nations will adopt a joint position, "without differences, a unified stance" with regard to the Free Trade Treaty and Proposition 187, recently approved in California.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres said "the Central American family is going united to Miami."

For the first time, Central America is going to a meeting with a joint position on vital issues for the region. These are sustainable development with respect for the (?environment), trade, and strengthening of democracy, he stressed.

As soon as plans for the Summit of the Americas were made known, multinational organizations such as the OAS and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) stated they should be taken into account.

The OAS created a work group to contribute ideas and to follow up the recommendations that emerge from the summit.

For the OAS, the grand meeting "constitutes an important opportunity to strengthen inter-American dialogue and cooperation."

In a communique issued to the media, the organization believes that the meeting in this Florida city represents an "opportune occasion to adopt an action plan that will include concerted solutions to the challenges faced by the nations of the hemisphere."

At its 20th Ministerial Council in Mexico, the SELA examined international economic relations, the trade situation, financing, and social development, topics that appear in the declaration of principles and the action plan that will emerge at the end of the summit this weekend.

According to a SELA statement, the group, as a Latin American organization of concerted effort and consultation regarding the international issues, analyzed Latin America's and the Caribbean's relations with the United States with an eye to the Miami forum.

Radio Havana Reports Rafter Rioting in Panama Camps

PA0912020894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Eddy Zamora from the Cuban Rafters Reception Center at Howard Air Force Base, Panama; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The rafters in Camps 1 and 2, located in areas under the control of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, had violent clashes yesterday afternoon and early this morning with the U.S. soldiers who guard those installations.

U.S. Brigadier General James Wilson, chief of the so-called Operation Save Haven task force, has provided the following preliminary information on the rafters' actions: 41 U.S. soldiers and one rafter injured; 12 U.S. Armed Forces combat vehicles known as Hummers damaged; one civilian truck taking food to the camps totally destroyed; and two wire fences torn down. According to Gen. Wilson, the incidents occurred because the rafters are frustrated and feel uncertain about their future. Wilson described the rafters' action as substantial and very serious. He reported that, for the first time in Panama, U.S. soldiers have had to use special riot gear.

Rafter (Antonio Giovanni) said the violent protest erupted because the U.S. Army is fooling them: One day they say one thing, and the next they do something entirely different.

According to Southern Command spokesmen, the riot brigade came to the camps, but the Cuban nationals threw stones at them, and several U.S. soldiers suffered head injuries. The Southern Command is currently making a final evaluation of the damage and will take disciplinary measures against the rafters who participated in the uprising.

U.S. Spokeswoman Cited

FL0912004194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Melanie Ryder, a U.S. Southern Command spokeswoman, reported that over 1,000 Cuban rafters rioted at two of the four camps the U.S. Army has set up in the Panama Canal Zone today, adding that 68 U.S. soldiers were slightly injured during the intense rioting and confirming that no weapons were fired at any time to contain the rioting. Ryder described the incident as the most serious to date at the camps in Panama. Similar events took place on 7 December. Ryder acknowledged that an undetermined number of rafters were also injured during today's riots and stressed that the situation is stabilizing following the deployment of a large contingent of soldiers. U.S. military sources report that the riots are the result of the frustration felt by the rafters by the seemingly endless confinement.

Foreign Minister Begins Official Visit to Tunisia

PA0812201994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1453 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisia, 8 Dec (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina began an official visit to Tunisia today where he will meet with the highest authorities of this Maghrebrian country according to information released by official sources.

Robaina arrived in Tunisia from Algeria, where he remained for 48 hours, and was received by this country's president, Liamine Zeroual, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, as well as other high-ranking leaders, including the commerce minister.

Robaina delivered a message from President Fidel Castro during his meeting with Zeroaul.

Zeroaul sent warm greetings to the Cuban president, according to sources close to the meeting, and expressed his respect for the resistance by this Caribbean nation's people against the U.S. blockade.

The Algerian president reiterated at the same time his country's traditional solidarity and support to Cuba's cause and pronounced himself in favor of increasing cooperation and exchange between both nations.

During his last day in Algeria, the foreign minister met at the Cuban Embassy in Algiers with leading personalities of this Maghrebian country's political, business, and intellectual sectors.

Tunisia is the second step along Robaina's tour of North Africa and the Levant, which will take him to Libya, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Iran.

Government Presents 4 Draft Resolutions on UN Agenda

PA0712191294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0055 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 6 December (PL)—Cuba presented today four draft resolutions on four aspects of topic No. 100, concerning the issue of human rights, on the annual agenda of the UN General Assembly.

Cuban delegates Margarita Valle and Juan Antonio Fernandez have presented at the plenum of the Third Commission of the General Assembly (on social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs) the document "Respect for the Principles of National Sovereignty and the Noninterference in the Internal Affairs of States in Their Electoral Processes."

They also have presented the draft bill "Respect for the Universal Freedom To Travel and the Vital Importance of Family Reunification."

Another of the texts presented by Cuba is "Strengthening the United Nations' (?Responsibilities) in Human Rights Through the Fostering of International Cooperation and the Importance of Nonselectivity, Impartiality, and Objectivity."

The fourth document is entitled "Different Criteria and Possible Ways Within the UN System To Improve the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties."

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In the first draft bill, Cuba counts on the joint sponsorship of China, Iraq, Libya, Namibia, Laos, the DPRK, the Sudan, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Myanmar (Burma).

This proposal refers to the nonexistence of a universal need for the United Nations to give electoral assistance to its members, except for the presence of special circumstances.

The second concerns a Cuban initiative and calls on the states to protect the universal right of all the citizens of other nations who legally reside in their territory to travel, to recognize the vital importance of family reunification, and to allow financial remittances sent by these citizens to their relatives in their nation of origin.

Concerning the second document, cosponsored by 21 other state members, the value of the principles of universality, nonselectivity, impartiality, and objectivity are affirmed, while it states the promotion, protection, and full exercise of all human rights should be removed from political designs.

The fourth draft bill, cosponsored by 18 nations, affirms that international peace and security are essential factors to achieve the full accomplishment of the right to development. It also considers necessary for all the state members to promote international cooperation based on the respect of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of each state, including the right of all people to freely elect their own socioeconomic and political system.

The first two documents, as well as the fourth, should be submitted to a vote, while the third will be adopted by consensus.

The entire process should conclude this week and be presented with the same purpose at the General Assembly during the second half of this month.

DPRK Military Delegation Departs

FL0812032294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Korean military delegation headed by Army General Cho Myong-nok, head of the Korean Air and Anti-Air Force, departed today. For almost one week, the Korean officers visited Revolutionary Armed Forces units and held meetings with Cuban officers.

[Begin recording] [Cho Myong-nok in Korean with simultaneous translation into Spanish] The most important thing is that during our visit we have been able to witness what the Cuban Army and Armed Forces, as well as the people, are working hard to overcome [words indistinct] orientations of the Communist Party of Cuba led by Comrade Fidel.

[Unidentified Cuban officer] We believe this has been an important visit because it has helped to strengthen the ties of friendship and future cooperation betweem the Korean and Cuban Armed Forces. [end recording]

Castro Construction Workers Day Address

FL0812120194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Address by President Fidel Castro at the Construction Workers Day ceremony and inauguration of Molecular Immunology Center in Havana, on 5 December; from the "Exclusivo" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Distinguished guests; comrades of the construction sector: I am not going to give an address as I have on other occasions. I do not mind coming to these ceremonies; I am invited to many. The problem is that everyone wants me to speak no matter what, to speak on anything, no matter the hour, and on any subject. [applause] That is what I fear. [chuckling] Besides, the most important, significant details have been mentioned already about the construction, the congress, and all the accomplishments attained, the new leadership, et cetera, et cetera.

The only thing left for me to do is to express my highest admiration for all this, for the construction workers' efforts, for their growing efficiency as reflected by the figures mentioned here. For example, in 1992, subsidies totalled 260 million pesos, and we appraise pesos more or less the same as the dollar—this is not the case on the black market—in order to keep our accounting. [laughter] This year, construction sector subsidies dropped to 800,000 pesos. This is a truly extraordinary drop. If we were to do the same in every sector, then that infamous currency excess, so touted, and the source of so many headaches... [pauses] Because we did not want to do in Cuba what is done in those countries mentioned, the countries mentioned by the comrade [Jose Luis Rico Montalban, president of the Latin American Federation of Construction Workers] who spoke on behalf of Latin American construction workers. In those countries, hundreds are laid off without any support or safety net. When the special period began, we did not wish to do that. It was not right to do that because if we want to consider ourselves a socialist state, the socialist state really exists to support, help, and protect the people under any circumstances. [applause]

Under socialism, man is not merchandise one buys and sells. We endeavor to protect everyone and to not close down a single school, or hospital, or to forsake anyone. We sought ways to provide labor welfare to everyone, relocation, transfers, and job swaps because there are areas where we have too many workers, and others where we have a shortage. In the sugarcane industry, as you are quite aware, we have a labor shortage. There are many agriculture jobs where we need workers. Cuba had developed mechanization to such a point during the Revolution that 80 percent of the population became city

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dwellers, and only 20 percent remained in the countryside. It is not like in other countries—I have mentioned the examples of the PRC and Vietnam, where the case is the opposite. Eighty percent of the population live in rural areas and 20 percent in urban areas. It is easier to feed the urban population, only 20 percent, with the labor of 80 percent. Here, it is the opposite. We have to feed an 80- percent urban population with the work of a 20-percent rural population. Also, not everyone in that 20 percent works in agriculture.

There are sectors where we lack a labor force, but we have not forced anyone to move to the countryside. We have used persuasion and voluntary methods, and above all, have not forsaken anyone. This resulted in an accumulation of money as the years passed. We got to a point where the excess currency reached 11 billion pesos. This resulted in many people underestimating the importance of work, losing interest in working, and turning two-income households into single-income households because one salary was enough to purchase ration items. We had problems with hospital and school workers. We had problems with nurses, teachers, and problems of every kind.

We knew this was going to happen and that it had to be tackled. This is what we are doing through the same revolutionary and democratic methods and by debating with the workers. We have held efficiency assemblies, but prior to the efficiency assemblies, we held tens and tens of thousands of workers' parliament meetings. Figures show how good the results are and that we are making progress through these humane methods by giving everyone an opportunity. We have had to do things, implement changes and reforms, et cetera, to adapt to the conditions imposed by today's world, but always defending our principles and the accomplishments of socialism, our ideals, fatherland, independence, and the Revolution. This is the way to do things in hard times. This is what we are called to do to win the battle against an empire at the apex of its might, at its most powerful ever, an empire that seeks to do as it wishes in this unipolar world. Yet, here we are.

I was asked some questions during my brief trip to Mexico. They asked me: What do you think about Cuba's absence from the Miami summit? I answered: A great honor. [applause] To another I answered: Well, look here, we are rebels and this is not a summit for rebels. [applause] I kept answering in the same manner. [applause]

I read a report this morning that stated Miami has the highest crime rate in the United States and that in Florida, four cities were among the top ten highest on crime. Of course, if they would have invited us, we would have had no other choice but to have gone. If not, they would have thought we were scared of that mafia, that fascist mafia. [applause] We are happy to hold a meeting such as this one here, so pure, so clean, and admirable. This meeting is worth 100 Miami summits [applause] even though you have made me give a mini speech here. That's life, you must learn how to recognize where true honors, true dignity, and true glory lie. Glory which can never be individual, but collective. No one man alone could have accomplished something like this.

Here builders and scientists came together, and one is hard pressed to tell who is who.

[Indistinct remark by unidentified speaker]

Ah! They are not wearing the tee-shirts. We could have also given them those pullovers. [applause] But you have them, at least as a keepsake. [Indistinct remark by unidentified speaker] Fine. [Indistinct remark by unidentified speaker] I see. I see. Well, keep them on, and wear them at least once a week. [applause]

I was pointing out the importance of the figures mentioned here regarding the drop in subsidies. This and other measures we have taken, have been discussed with the entire people, and keeping in mind the people's opinion. Those abroad who speak of democracy do not even listen to the people, and never include the people in anything. They never ask a worker's opinion. We spend months doing this. We do not care how long it takes. We hold meetings of this and that kind, polling the workers' opinions, explaining and reexplaining things, persuading, clarifying things not clearly understood. We seek a consensus on the action to take. This is how we do it. The excess currency has dropped by over 1 billion pesos. Our humble peso has begun to regain some value, and the highly touted dollar is beginning to lose some of its strength, although the amount of dollars coming in during this period dropped following the crisis [rafters exodus]. Dollars find their way in on their own. They were already here. [chuckles] These guys would travel to Cuba and we could not tell if they were very fat or were wearing money belts. These people come up with all kind of things. Then one day we decriminalized the possession of dollars and now they are the ones having headaches and implementing measures and trying to halt the flow of dollars. We are winning the battle of the dollar [chuckling] and despite having a little less, the value of the dollar has dropped.

This is the result of the group of measures we have been implementing and will continue to implement. These figures truly show significant progress. This is praiseworthy. Another figure mentioned here, the 300 kg of cement used per cubic meter of concrete is amazing, particularly if we remember that in the years of fat cows—described in a Bible story everyone is familiar with—704 kg of cement was used to make a cubic meter of concrete. We built many, many things, but were investing approximately 4 million tons of cement. I believe we were using just cement and water, no sand or gravel, in order to use 704 kg of cement. That is past history. However, this gives us an idea of the efforts toward efficiency made during the special period.

This project, which earned you the right to host this ceremony here today, is truly a great endeavor. This

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cannot be seen from the outside. You have to build it yourself in order to know what it entails. However, we cannot tour the interior either because everything would get full of dust. So, no longer can it be toured. [laughter] We were among the last people who had the privilege of touring the facility. In order to enter some of these areas—well, no one except the people working there will enter some areas—you have to become a cosmonaut. You have to put on uniforms and headgear, and I forget how many other things in order to not contaminate the facilities. The problem with this project is not its size, but its complexity, its quality.

Some might feel proud of a construction as large as our Capitol building. Of course, the Capitol was not designed to be microbe-, contamination-free. It was a building to house bacteria, contamination, infection, and all those kinds of things. [applause] We turned it into a science academy, a science and technology library, and there are about 10 bidders vying for that building. Since we are downsizing and there is more surplus building space, the number of candidates is large. However, the science academy does not want to let go. They have requested other buildings as well as keeping the Capitol. Comrade Rosa Elena [Simeon] will have to choose between several, but she cannot keep everything. The science academy and library have priority. However, [Eusebio] Leal also wanted it as a Habana Vieja Museum. Undoubtedly the building would make a great museum because it was already a museum. Only in Cuba when seeking to build a parliament building, you copy Washington's Capitol down to the last detail. Whose idea was that? I know of no other country to have done so. That is how strong the Platistas, advocates of the Platt Amendment, were; how strong the advocates of greed were—they profited from everything. Can you imagine, to recreate the U.S. Capitol here!

If we let them, even the National Assembly would like to get hold of the Capitol building, although they would not fit. They do fit in the Convention Center.

Anyway, that is an example of a large project. So is the Focsa Building. Some of the buildings we have built are even bigger. Conchita, I do not know about the one we inaugurated. Is it not bigger than this one? No. This one seems bigger because it has two or three stories. It has three—one is a mechanical story. This project is extremely complex. It has sections that are called clean areas. We read in the brochure that the center has 100,000-, 10,000-, and 100-particle areas. The one with 100 must be the poorest, no? They explained to me that it was the other way around.

When one hears 100,000, one imagines this is the pinnacle of cleanliness. These areas have 100,000 particles per cubic foot. This means that when I do this [inhales], I am breathing in at least 200,000 particles. [laughter] And they tell me there is not pollution! When one reads 10,000 it means there are 10,000 particles per cubic feet, and 100 means there are 100 particles per cubic feet, 1,000 times fewer particles. How is this done? It is achieved through a series of systems, filters, machines, and things. The center meets the highest international standards. This center meets all the most stringent international standards for the production of what is going to be produced there. I must add that there are very few such facilities in the world. This center meets international standards in its construction, cleanliness. It also has the most modern equipment. However, it has something in which I am convinced no one in the world surpasses us—the quality of the men and women who are going to work or are already working in this center. [applause]

Others might build centers that are its equal in physical plant, but the human factor cannot be compared. Therein lies our advantage over everybody else. Cuba can feel proud of this center, not because of it alone, but because it completes an entire collection of scientific centers. This is the last one to be inaugurated. We have built an entire collection of scientific research centers that have earned Cuba great prestige and strength in this field, and which are already beginning to yield results. They are beginning to yield dividends. They are beginning to produce tens of millions of dollars a year for Cuba. This is a research and production center, so are all the centers we have built. Others are for production alone, such as that construction nearby, which is going to be the most modern medicine pill plant in Cuba. Two other plants were completed recently. They have a large production capacity. This is why during that infamous neuropathy epidemic, we were able to distribute one pill per day to every citizen—11 million pills everyday. It is easy to say 11 million, but it is quite a figure. We would not have been able to do this if we had not had the first of those plants. The first plant alone was enough to do this. The second one was completed already, and the most modern will stand near this center. Therefore, our medicine production capability is increasing quite considerably.

We have many medicine production hubs. However, close by we are also building a plant for intravenous medicine production—another large plant that will help Cuba meet its domestic and export demand. A large insulin plant is also being built in that area.

We continue working in other areas but not at the same rate. This was done in the midst of the special period. Our products are beginning to attain a share of the market, thanks to their outstanding quality despite competition from powerful medicine transnationals, which are already beginning to respect Cuba and acknowledge the great capacity that has been developed in a few years, first in the minds of our people and then in physical facilities. In the future, it will become an extremely important industry and sector for the economy even if we have to open our way, step by step, against a formidable international competition and also against non-tariff protectionism measures, the ones most effective in obstructing trade. They keep establishing more,

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more, and more requirements to hamper competition with their industries. Some of our products are very effective and in great demand. They therefore invent new stumbling blocks and say: 100 or 100,000 particles? No. It has to be 8,500. One hundred? No. It has to be 85. These are just some examples.

This is why everything we do has to be done at the highest international level, to stop them from coming up with obstacles. Some enterprises come and suggest businesses because we are already a force in many markets. Can you believe it? Our products are a force to be contended with because of their quality. This is one more little gem introducing us to the field of molecular immunology. We could not figure out what to call it, and talking with our scientific Lage, that one over there in the tee-shirt, not the other one in the pullover. He is not one of the builders. Anyhow, what name could we give to it? They produce monoclonal antibodies, and that takes too long to explain. They explained it to me and I think that I understood it. Every so often, I have explained it to others, and perhaps, mistaken or not, I have taught many what monoclonal antibodies are. [laughter/applause]

These people come up with all kinds of things. The genetic engineering field adds genes to cells in others for the cells to produce desired end results. This other field splices cells together, thus producing the famous antibodies. We could call them missiles for diagnosing illness. They produce an illness-seeking missile that goes directly where specific substances are being produced—for example, a tumor. Then all the studies and analyses can be conducted. This is not only used to diagnose illnesses, but the monoclonal antibodies research now aims to create missiles that not only detect tumors, or certain illnesses, but also fights them. These are already like war missiles to destroy harmful cells.

Just as others are finding the genes that predispose certain people to certain types of cancer. Unfortunately, there are many types of cancer. As our scientific Lage explained to me, there are over 4,00 types of cancer. I do not know if some more types have been discovered. This is what you told me, and I have repeated the story to I do not know how many people. [laughter/applause] Has the number changed? About 400 different types of cancer. Of course, not all are alike. Some are extremely rare. Others are very common. Logically, they are first going to work in these centers with antibodies for the most common types. They are not going to begin working on all 400-plus types, but the most frequent types, the ones responsible for the greatest number of cases or deaths.

As part of this process, they create new bacteria that are a combination of two bacteria, in order to produce those antibodies or missiles. At times, they are illumination missiles that show where the illness is located. Their great hope is to turn them into destruction missiles. This is a war against this terrible illness.

However, they are not going to work on this alone, they are going to work in other aspects of biotechnology, together with the other nearby scientific centers and as part of West Havana's scientific hub. They are leaving behind another center. While this one was under construction, they developed a center at the oncologic hospital. I suggested that they become its mentor and exert certain control and supervision over it, that they become the ruling body. They have great faith in the comrades they left behind and the hospital. Anyhow, the hospital does not have the resources this center has, nor the expertise this center has. I believe that even if they are an independent center, they must work together—the efforts should be mutual because the other center is located in a hospital that puts them close to many cases and problems, everyday. There are several hospitals nearby. That hospital specializes in oncology, and its close cooperation is going to be needed. We do not want them to get angry at you and say: We are so happy the new center was inaugurated, and they all left, so now we can do whatever we wish. I hope this does not happen because at times, even the best of families fight. But, it is essential that there be cooperation in this area, and between this center and the one you leave behind. It may be small, but the equipment and personnel are very good. Constant exchange must prevail.

It makes us proud to inaugurate this center in the midst of the special period, a center that is not a luxury but a promise of health and wellbeing for our people, a promise of revenue for our economy because it has a significant production capability. It also has the advantage of being able to coordinate efforts with all the other research centers. This is why we created the scientific hubs—to prevent the centers from becoming isolated from what other centers were doing, so that every research center cooperates closely with others.

We could have selected many other projects. I believe today the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises [UNECA] finally completed a hotel. I believe this is why the UNECA was given the... [pauses] The Old Man and the Sea hotel—a little longer and the sea would have finished off the old man before it was completed. Or perhaps a storm surge would take the hotel away. No one knew. It took them a long time. They have to do a critical analysis. It took them three years to remodel the hotel. [Indistinct remarks by unidentified speaker] Ah! There was a storm surge flood. They are defending themselves. They say the sea flooded it and it got damaged and it took three years and tourists are already staying there. Well, I hope they are well protected from storm surges.

There is also a contingent building the ICIT [not further identified], that is building the cabanas. How are they progressing?

[Unidentified speaker: Commander, there are coming along fine.]

That is very important. Today, we were also given the good news that at midnight on 5 December, today, the Melia-Cohiba Hotel is going to be lit up. [applause] That one took a long time because of various problems. First,

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there were people who were going to invest jointly. Then problems surfaced. The plans had to be redrawn and we had to build it alone. The Cohiba Hotel is 100-percent Cuban. It is a great hotel. It has almost 500 rooms. How many? Four hundred and sixty two. It is going to be lit up tonight. This does not mean tourists are already staying there, but several floors are ready. They say that by January, they expect to welcome tourists. Thus, the Cohiba will light us up and will light up the economy. [applause] We needed to put that hotel in operation. We have to build many others and use all the hotels we have more intensely. We have to increase occupancy, and capacity, and the performance of that capacity.

It is very important for the labor force to remain together. Remember, the comrades from the UNECA have their own duties, and many duties. You, members of the contingents in Havana... [pauses] I see that you earned two award banners and have earned Vanguard status six years in a row. These biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry projects have contributed much because they have helped to foster discipline and efficiency, projects that demanded quality. Now we must ensure that all this trained personnel is not dispersed. During the special period, many construction workers have ended up in agriculture and other fields. However, to the extent that the country recovers, it has to build more and more, and there will be a day when the number of construction workers will have to increase significantly; yet, above all, the construction workers' productivity and efficiency, cost-saving measures, and design... [pauses] We have many architects and engineers and yet the design process at times progresses slowly. We should have the design drawn ahead of time in order to avoid what happens many times, raising a structure and drafting plans at the same time. This creates delays and difficulties of all kinds. It is essential to keep those forces we have brought together and trained, together. We need them for new projects, renovations, and maintenance. I was told that 70 of the workers from this project are going to be grouped in a special brigade.

This building has a mechanical floor, quite a mechanical floor on the top. It is on the top because no one can enter the clean areas and do repairs, or change a light bulb, or that kind of thing. The light bulbs are changed from the top. From the mechanical floor, so that they do not have to enter the sterile areas. This building has an entire mechanical floor. It also has an outstanding control room that keeps track of every detail, of the entire process, of every system in the factory, through computers, video monitors, and so on.

It also has a dining room which I believe is a tad small. I counted 14 chairs. The tables are a bit large, you can almost play ball on some of them, but—as someone mentioned— not dominoes. The players are too far apart. Perhaps, if they are exchanged for smaller but more comfortable tables, a few more tables will fit and the workers can eat in three or four shifts.

Earlier I was talking with the top man, our scientific Lage. What are we finally going to call you? Agustin! That's it. [laughter] I was talking with Agustin because he was against having a dining room—correction: He wanted a dining room, but not a kitchen. [laughter] It seems that after he saw all the problems with food supplies at the oncologic hospital, he did not want to hear about it. However, I advised him. Experience shows us that it is an advantage to have a little kitchen. The other one is large. A large kitchen is being built for an entire group of factories, for thousands of workers. This center, like the immunology research [inmuno-ensayo] center, is independent and in this era where so many nations are declaring their sovereignty, immunology research declared its independence and we had to build a little kitchen for them, and they are very happy. If at any time, we want to help a center working on a special project, it is easier to provide food for a kitchen preparing food for 200 or 400 workers, rather than 3,000 or 5,000 workers. [applause] Centers such as genetic engineering have that advantage. They know what can be accomplished and it is easier to help them. It is not the same to help 300 as to help 10,000. We can allocate help for 300 workers engaged in very important work, but not for a kitchen that cooks for 10,000. It is an advantage to have your own kitchen. That little problem is going to be resolved.

There are other outstanding facilities nearby. There is the Ozone Center which has a new technology under development. There is the Medical and Surgical Research Center, one of the best hospitals in Cuba. The Pradera Roja, which was a technical school and is being turned into a medical hotel linked to all these centers, is also nearby. Also close by—I cannot mention every one—are many research centers and hospitals. There is the Frank Pais Hospital, the Finlay Institute, the Workers Maternity Hospital down the road, and the Juan Manuel Marques Hospital. There are about seven or eight hospitals nearby, and all these centers do work on medicines. I repeat, their duty is to help the people and the economy. That is the symbolic and moral value of this center. After building a center as technologically complex as this one, the only thing left to do is to build a spacecraft—but we harbor no such plans at this time. I do not know if ever there will be a time when Cuba gets to enter that field. However, this center proves we could do it. There is the quality of the soldering alone, and the equipment to reduce particles in the air to 100 [inhales] per cubic feet. Therefore, you can estimate the particles of air you breathe everyday. There is a comrade over there smoking and spreading particles everywhere. I can see them. [chuckles] At that precise moment, someone exhaled some smoke, not because of a lack of courtesy, but on the contrary, to help illustrate my explanation about particles in the air. [laughter/applause] This helps to better understand the problems with the environment. The world is finally becoming increasingly aware of this struggle, one of the greatest threats faced by mankind.

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It makes us very happy that construction workers honor Armando Mestre on this date with a project like this, that you will conclude your congress and observe your day with such a project and others that represent the efforts being made everywhere. All I can do is urge you to continue endeavoring toward efficiency, toward an efficiency we can express in figures.

I give you my warmest and well-deserved congratulations on Construction Workers Day. When we see projects like this one, we feel fully entitled to say: Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [applause]

Castro Praises Hotel, Says Revolution Will Prevail

PA0812163494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0229 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 6 Dec (PL)—Cuban President Fidel Castro today described the construction of the Hotel Cohiba in this capital as marvelous work. He underscored the fact that it is taking place despite the economic crisis facing the country.

The chief of state attended a ceremony marking the completion of 90 percent of the construction and installation of lighting fixtures at the tourist facility. It is 100 percent Cuban property and will be jointly managed with the Spanish Melia chain.

Addressing workers of the Blas Roca contingent in charge of the construction, the president pointed out that the builders of the 462-room, 22-story hotel should be proud. He added that it will help the country collect foreign currency and become a tourist power.

This should be a source of encouragement and hope because despite enormous difficulties, despite the unipolar world, and despite the power of the empire, we are capable of doing things that have never been done in our country, he affirmed.

Fidel Castro said that the enemies of Cuba have spent five years figuring out when the revolution will fall. He pointed out that they will spend another 50 or 500 years waiting for this to happen.

He stated that although Cuba is a small Caribbean country, an inch from the empire at the Guantanamo Naval Base, and a few kilometers from Florida, Cubans are a people with a dignity that very few have had and with an ability to make sacrifices that few have had to make.

Castro emphasized that Cuba will never again be a U.S. neocolony. He added that they are determined to struggle for 300 years if necessary to preserve the nation's independence and sovereign.

If the enemies dare invade us one day they will know what the sons of this heroic people are capable of, he pointed out.

Fidel Castro said that dignity, honor, and patriotism are not for sale in exchange for a plate of lentils. In the same way, the achievements of the revolution, which lives and will live for future generations, are not for sale either.

In congratulating the hotel builders, Castro recalled that they also took to the streets in August to face antisocial elements who committed acts of vandalism.

The builders did not go out to kill or destroy; they went to defend their achievements.

Finally, he pointed out that those who have the privilege of living in present times will be honored in the future, because a small country, which was not intimidated and did not surrender when left all alone, will always be remembered.

Castro on Role of Culture at Awards Ceremony

FL0812164794 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by reporter Gisela Aranda at an awards ceremony for Alfredo Guevarra in Havana City on 7 December; from the "First Thing" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Aranda] How important do you think this ceremony is for Cuban culture and especially for Cuban cinema? We are so fortunate to have you here today.

[Castro] Today's event has been profoundly emotional. One of those occasions where—notwithstanding our strong composure—it almost made us spill some tears. Even if we did not cry, our eyes were watery. The ceremony in itself was very genuine and touching. [Havana historian Eusebio] Leal and Alfredo's words were true classics. No, they cannot be classics because words are words, but here sentiments were expressed in beautiful words. Perhaps, history can record words, but what is difficult to record are the feelings brought forth during this ceremony. I felt that, during a few moments, my heart skipped a beat [el corazon asi se me apreto]. However, I was not worried about a heart attack because I have already adapted my heart to... [word indistinct]. [women laugh]

[Aranda] What role should culture play in these difficult times?

[Castro] Well, you are asking difficult questions and I know... [women laugh] I think Leal and Alfredo said it: identity with the fatherland, with sovereignty, with independence, and with the Revolution—save it, help to save it, among all of us. Many, many things can be done. I hope that you are convinced. [end recording]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Aims of Caricom Leaders at Miami Summit Noted

FL0812172694 Bridgetown CANA in English 1654 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Richard Cox]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec., 8, CANA - Vital issues of trade, hemispheric integration and sustainable development will occupy the attention of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders as they meet Friday [9 December] with their counterparts from Latin America and the United States for the Summit of the Americas.

The three-day summit, the first in a quarter of a century, comes at a very important time when Caribbean countries are vigorously engaged in sustained efforts to exploit the vast markets of North and South America, at the same time moving to protect their fragile economies.

Increasing liberalisation of the world's trading regimes and the reality of strong non-protectionist forces buffeting the developing world, have placed the 13-member Caribbean trading group in an extremely precarious situation.

While they are committed conceptually to the move towards trade liberalisation, Caribbean countries at the same time are forced to negotiate protection for what essentially in many cases are largely mono-crop agricultural economies.

For them, special consideration for agricultural products such as bananas is of vital concern at this conference, especially in the face of a challenge by the United States (which has since been reportedly dropped) under the rules of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as unfair competition.

Under Protocol VIII of the LOME IV Convention, African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are given preferential access to European markets by the European Union (EU) in the face of stiff marketing and production competition from dollar-area banana producers in South and Central America. In terms of trade in the western hemisphere, CARICOM nations are especially interested in having legislation that under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) would accord them tariff and quota benefits for textiles and apparel.

Caribbean countries were hoping that these could have been similar to those extended Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and the U.S.

Another critical issue that regional leaders will raise is access for Caribbean countries to NAFTA, according to Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister Patrick Manning.

Amid reports that Chile is the next likely candidate for inclusion into the trade pact, certain Caribbean countries have been singled out by U.S. officials as being ready for consideration.

At times, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have variously been singled out as potential members of NAFTA, but individual accession of Caribbean countries to the trade pact is seen as problematic for the sub-regional CARICOM trade group.

In any case, Caribbean countries have been successful in having the organisers of the summit amend the overall principles adopted by the 34-nation summit, to take into account the heterogeneous and diverse levels of economic development in the region.

What is worrying for some regional offficials, though, is that the key issue of Caribbean trade may be eclipsed by the issues of drug trafficking and money laundering, assuming a dangerous importance in the region.

It's expected the conference will involve six hours of "closed working sessions" on Saturday and a day-long plenary meeting Sunday that will consider "Trade and Economic Integration", "Democracy and Good Governance" and "Sustainable Development".

In the face of all this, however, is the prominent omission of Cuba in the conference, which suggests, in the face of all the important social and economic issues that are of concern to the hemisphere, this conference still entertains a signifcant ideological component.

Bahamas

Prime Minister on Expectations for Summit

FL0812155894 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thirty-four leaders of countries in the hemisphere will engage in two days of discussion on democracy and good governance, economic integration, and trade and sustainable development. The Summit of the Americas will take place in Miami, Florida. Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham updated the news media on his agenda for the summit yesterday. He said the number one priority of the Bahamas is to gain access to United States convention tax deduction benefit without compromise.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham told newsmen that the Summit of the Americas, which was called by United States President Mr. Bill Clinton, will discuss three overall issues of interest to the hemisphere: democracy and good governance, economic integration and trade, and sustainable development.

[Ingraham] Governments, including the Bahamas, have almost completed negotiations on the text of the two principle documents to be endorsed by—and released by—heads at the conclusion of the summit. One document, a declaration of principles, will set out the goals and objectives of the hemispheric governments in achieving a measure of success in strengthening and enhancing democracy in the region; improving the economic well-being of the people of the region; and eradicating poverty through access to universal education and health care, improved trade and investment regimes, and finally through the sustainable exploitation of our environmental resources for the benefit of the people of the hemisphere.

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[Unidentified reporter] Prime Minister Ingraham also outlined the Bahamas's agenda at the Summit of the Americas.

[Ingraham] Reaffirming the region's commitment to assist Haiti, and the strengthening of democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and the expansion of economic development opportunities. Secondly, to reaffirm the hemisphere's commitment to continue all reasonable efforts in the international campaign against the production, traffic, and consumption of narcotic drugs; reaffirm the hemisphere's commitment to continue to act in a coordinated fashion to protect and enhance the environment of the region for the benefit of all.

[Unidentified reporter] Prime Minister Ingraham also pointed out another priority for the Bahamas.

[Ingraham] The greatest interest the Bahamas has, the one interest the Bahamas has is in accessing the convention tax deduction which tourists and American businesses are able to write off, [repeats] whereby American businesses are able to write off against their tax returns in the United States travel, etcetera. That is the number one priority, that is the number one interest, that is the one interest of the Bahamas, and the Bahamas will do many things without compromising matters of principle in the Bahamas or matters of long-established law in the Bahamas, like for instance bank secrecy, to achieve. We work at it hard every day. [end recording]

Delegation Named

FL0912005494 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Ingraham, along with Mrs. Ingraham and the Bahamas delegation, will travel to Miami, Florida tomorrow to attend the Summit of the Americas. The summit of 34 hemispheric leaders has been called by U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton. While at the summit, Prime Minister Ingraham is expected to avail himself of the opportunity to meet with as many leaders of Latin America as possible and to engage in bilateral discussions with the prime ministers of Venezuela, Haiti, and Canada. The prime minister's delegation to the Summit of the Americas includes: Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honorable Janet Bostwick; Minister of Planning and the Public Service the Honorable William Allen; His Excellency Mr. T. Baswell Donaldson, Bahamas ambassador to the United States; Mr. (Adrius Reid), permanent secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms. (M. Theresa Butler), permanent secretary/Office of the Prime Minister; and Mr. (Frank Roe), consul general in Miami.

Haiti

Aristide Heads Delegation for Summit; Cited on Expectations

FL0812192294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will leave for Florida on 8 December. He will preside head the Haitian delegation which will participate in the meeting of the heads of state of the Americas, which will take place in Miami from 9 to 11 December. The Haitian president will be accompanied notably by the trade, finance, and planning ministers. According to President Aristide, this meeting will allow the Haitian Government to study the evolution of the Caribbean in America. The Haitian president, who was speaking within the scope of his meeting with the press, said that he thinks sincere dialogues between the countries will facilitate the emergence of democracy in the hemisphere.

Movement 'Satisfied' With Aristide's 'New Ideology'

FL0912010494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Antoine Joseph, deputy from the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], says that the MIDH is satisfied with President Aristide's new ideology. He says that he believes in the Haitian president's reconciliation message. Joseph thinks that after three years of embargo and the passing of Tropical Storm Gordon, the only chance that Haiti has to end the stalemate is for the nation to unite to boost the economy. He points out that that opportunity must not be missed.

Aristide Installs Economic Growth Commission 7 Dec

FL0912005394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Aristide installed the Commission for Economic Growth [Commission pour la Croissance de l'Economie] at the National Palace on 7 December. This commission will have to work toward the recovery of the 30,000 jobs lost during the period following the September 1991 coup d'etat. Commission President Jean-Edouard Baker said that boosting the economy is necessary and essential to prevent Haiti from being routed and that the private sector is ready to help.

Legislators Consider Form Electoral Council To Take

FL0912010594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislators must decide whether to form a provisional, transitional, or permanent electoral council. Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the upper chamber, said on 7 December that the Haitian president would be informed before departing for Miami today on the results of legislative consultations on this issue.

Jamaica

Jamaican Envoy Satisfied With U.S. Position on Bananas

FL0812132594 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 7, CANA—The Clinton administration, in a major last-minute decision, Wednesday [7 December] withdrew its

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challenge to the preferential access the European Union has given to African, Caribbean and Caribbean (ACP) bananas.

Jamaica's ambassador in Geneva, Richard Pierce, told CANA that the American government had done the honourable thing in changing its mind.

"As far as we have understood it the United States has withdrawn their reservation. They have proposed an amendment to the text which satisfies us and which doesn't significantly alter the content of the decision.

"The sticking point is Guatemala. Guatemala still wants bananas to be excluded from the waiver.... The question is what happens then," Pierce said.

He said discussions were still taking place between the European Union and Guatemala. It is expected that by Thursday, CARICOM countries will know whether Guatemala still has objections to the waiver, and if they do "we can decide where to go from there," Pierce said.

Without disclosing names, the Jamaican diplomat said "I think there are other people behind Guatemala". Guatemala's principal concern, Pierce said, is that if a waiver is granted it will then provide a partial cover for bananas from ACP countries into the community's market.

"And it would at least for the next two years shield us in part from complaints to GATT because we would have had a waiver from the GATT requirements," Pierce explained.

Washington earlier had caused concern among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries after it had announced its intention to object to the continuance of the LOME IV Convention, at a meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva Thursday.

CARICOM officials believed that any loss of preferential treatment to the European market would destroy the banana economies of the Windward Islands.

Minister Signs Rice Accord, Thanks U.S.

FL0812234594 Bridgetown CANA in English 2134 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 8, CANA—The Jamaican and United States governments have signed a U.S.10 million agreement for the purchase of 35,000 tonnes of rice for fiscal 1994/95. The agreement is the fourth between Jamaica and the United States Department of Agriculture under the pl 480 [as received] programme. Under PL 480, U.S.-produced agricultural commodities are sold in Jamaica on concessional terms and the proceeds used by the government to contribute to the financing of development plans. The rice will be supplied on terms that include a six-year grace period and a 20-year repayment plan at a rate of 3 percent annually. Finance Minister Omar Davies, who signed on behalf of Jamaica, thanked the U.S. government for the on-going assistance and noted the "vital use" to which the proceeds were being put, particularly in supporting sustainable agriculture. New United States Ambassador J. Gary Cooper praised the "positive developments" in the Jamaican economy which had become more open and market oriented. He noted that the U.S. government had recently announced a U.S.30 million credit guarantee to Jamaica. This, he said, would assist Jamaican importers of feed-grains, protein meals, barley malt, oilseeds, poultry breeder stock and other commodities from the United States.

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Report Details Zedillo's Activities at Summit

PA0812151494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is President Zedillo's program of activities in Miami:

The president and his wife will depart Mexico City at 0700 Mexican time on 9 December. It is estimated they will arrive at Miami International Airport at 1120 Miami time after a flight lasting three hours and 20 minutes.

The president will visit THE MIAMI HERALD at 1145, where he will be interviewed. He will have a working lunch with Chilean President Frei at 1245, will meet with Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen at 1600, Argentine President Carlos Menem at 1645, and Brazilian President-elect Fernando Enrique Carodozo at 1800. He will attend a dinner reception party at 1845 hosted by President Bill Clinton and Mrs. Clinton for all guests.

The president will have breakfast with the heads of state and heads of government at 0800 on 10 December, in the Vizkaya Cultural Center, and will participate in the hemispheric summit's first session. The second session will be held at 1200 during a working luncheon. The official photograph will be taken at 1400. President Zedillo will attend the third session at 1500 and will attend a cultural-artistic function at 1930. He will board a yacht at 2115 with the other heads of state bound for (Fisher Island), where he will attend a formal dinner hosted by the U.S. President and his wife at 2200.

He will have a working breakfast with all the presidents, particularly with the Group of Three presidents, that is, Rafael Caldera of Venezuela and Ernesto Samper of Colombia, at 0730 on 11 December. He will arrive at the Regency Hotel at 0910 to participate in the plenary and final session of the Summit of the Americas where President Clinton will speak. Also to speak is one president representing South America, one for Central America, one for the Caribbean, and another for North America. OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria will also speak, as well as IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias. President Clinton will read the final declaration and the Summit of the Americas plan of action at 1100.

The Mexican president will go to his hotel at 1130 to hold a joint news conference with U.S. President Clinton, Chilean President Frei, and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien. This news conference will quite probably serve to announce Chile's entry into NAFTA.

President Zedillo will meet privately at 1220 with the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Patrick Manning, and with Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada at 1245. President Zedillo will give a news conference at 1545 to Mexican journalists and will board the plane to return to Mexico at 1700.

It is estimated he will arrive at 1920, Mexico time, on 11 December.

Marcos Responds to Zedillo's Inaugural Address

PA0812155394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Dec 94 pp 12, 13

[Letter to President Zedillo from the EZLN's "Insurgent" Subcommander Marcos, issued from the EZLN's General Headquarters in Mexico on 3 December; words within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]

Mexico

3 December 1994

To: Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon

Mexico, D.F. [Federal District]

From: *Insurgent Subcommander Marcos*

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee [CCRI]-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

General Headquarters

"I must close due to lack of time, but I will add one last comment: In certain cases, men can attack the rights of others, take over their properties, threaten the lives of those who are defending their nationality, make the highest virtues seem like crimes, and make their own vices shine like real virtues.

There is, however, one thing that falseness and perfidy cannot reach: the formidable sentence of history. History will judge us."

Benito Juarez to Maximilian of Hapsburg, in reply to a confidential letter in which Maximilian proposed secret negotiations and participation in his government.

Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon:

Welcome to the nightmare. I hereby address you on your inaugural address.

You must know that the political system you represent (to which you owe your having reached power, not legitimacy) has prostituted language to such a point that today the word "politics" is a synonym for lies, crime, and treason. I am only telling you what millions of Mexicans would like to tell you: We do not believe you.

I will add what perhaps not everybody would endorse: We are tired of waiting to see if things will change this time. Your words today are the same ones we heard at the beginning of previous presidential terms.

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The nation's mistrust of electoral processes includes the one that fraudulently led you to this feigned transfer of power. For that reason I address you, and particularly your tutor, Salinas de Gortari, who—as we can see in the cabinet that will accompany you in this new lie—refuses to withdraw from the nation's political life.

How do you expect the nation to believe that you will make justice prevail in the crimes against the fatherland that tarnished Mexican modern history and showed the true and criminal face of your state-party? How can the nation believe you when you awarded one of the individuals accused of covering up by giving him the responsibility for managing the resources of the nation's subsoil?

I see that you have maintained that government office of alms called Sedesol [Secretariat of Social Development]. What kind of dignified treatment can you offer us for a frank dialogue and respectful negotiations when you appoint as your cashier for buying consciences one of the links in the chain inherited from Salinism [reference to Salinas de Gortari], who since May 1993, instead of giving economic assistance to the most needy, dedicated his efforts to purchasing the dignity of Indians, as if this were a handicraft market?

Is that your plan for counterinsurgency? Doing social work galore in order to take popular support away from us? It is a good strategy that is part of all U.S. antiguerrilla manuals (and in all their history of failures). But are you not aware that the funds assigned for that purpose are not used for social work, but end up in the pockets of corrupt leaders and PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] municipal presidents in the rural areas of Chiapas? Is this advice from the Argentine military advisers? Are you going to be deceived once again? Like when you were told that millions and millions of old and new pesos had been invested in the area that after 1 January became "a conflict zone?" How much more money and how much more blood is necessary for you to realize that the corruption that until now has enabled you to survive as a political system will tomorrow be your grave?

Let me go on to your cabinet. It shows that your inaugural address is just a lot of words that look more like a store's display window than a government team; in the economic office you have a group that inherits its tutor and which was characterized by its submissiveness in everything concerning our national sovereignty and Mexican dignity. In Foreign Relations, you have appointed someone who has the foreigners', but not the Mexicans', approval. Are foreign relations now simply commercial relations? In Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources you can be sure that poverty and discontent will grow in the Mexican countryside.

Generally speaking, one can see the foreign shadow and the French tint we Mexicans have already suffered during the last administration in your cabinet. The lies and poor makeup will not be enough. The country is going to explode in your hands, no matter how much you believe you have the resources to control and keep the Mexicans submerged in the typical "take whatever comes" posture.

I listened attentively to your speech over the radio. You are correct in recognizing that it is not our violence the nation fears most. But your statement was incomplete. You seem to want to dilute the insecure atmosphere hanging over the country. The main reason for destabilization, insecurity, and violence is the state party. This is a political system you will not be able to destroy, simply because you owe your present power to that very same system. The cabinet you have presented to the country is just a sample of the outstanding political debts that you assumed when you took office. Your whole discourse will crumble before your very eyes when you see all the accounts payable to all the accomplices who made it possible for you to illegally wear the presidential sash today. The crime began with the murder of the man from whom you inherited the candidacy. It continued with the electoral campaign farce. It managed to pass the self test of 21 August and end on 1 December 1994, a fatal event for the whole nation. Now the country has two important first days of the month in its history. They made their mark in opposite ways, however. On the one hand there is that 1 January marked by the rising cries for dignity and rebellion from Mexicans of many different social backgrounds, but who suffer the same privations. Men, women, children, and the elderly from the cities and the fields, of different colors and different races, who speak in different languages, but suffer the same problems, speak out since that day with one Indian voice.

On 1 December, the funeral that began even before 21 August was finished. The hope for peaceful change, democracy, freedom, and justice had been buried.

As you pointed out, the Indian communities are not only undergoing "serious deprivations, injustices, and lack of opportunities." They are also undergoing another serious illness which is slowly starting to spread throughout the entire Indian population: rebellion. You will have enough time to learn this during your administration.

You have said that "we all, government, society, and affected communities, must join the struggle against poverty," yet you decided to continue with practically the same cabinet as your predecessor, the person who caused so much anguish to this country: Carlos Salinas de Gortari. We do not want the Mexican unity of which you speak. That is a call to unity that leads straight to the continuation of the same shameful system, but is now disguised with the makeup of another six years. This is not that type of unity that Mexico needs. What our history demands is unity against the state party system, a system that has immersed the nation in a poverty of mind and spirit.

You point out that "during this year the disposition of all Mexicans has been deeply affected by events in Chiapas,

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by the violence, and even more so by the conditions of injustice, anguish, and abandonment that prepared the ground for that same violence." Such conditions of injustice and violence are not exclusive to Chiapas. The entire nation is subject to a prohibitive social cost imposed by neoliberalism. If there are no in-depth transformations, violence will overshadow the entire national territory, and not just because we have encouraged it.

You contradict yourself when you say that "there will be no violence by the government." Yet the *white guards* who work for the large cattle owners and businessmen are operating with impunity, in other words with government complicity. This is a very poor start if all you have to offer the country are half-truths.

You have said that it "infuriates you to know that women are victims of aggression in the streets, that children and teenagers are being abused right outside their schools, that workers lose their wages because of street theft, and that the small businesses lose their payrolls to violent theft. It is also infuriating to learn of cases of impunity that develop as a result of abuse of authority, venality, and corruption." Yes, it is also infuriating to know that there are 24 powerful ones living in Mexico at the expense of a humiliating 4 percent increase in already measly wages. It is also infuriating to know about the robbery of our national identity through the "legal" procedures of a Free Trade Agreement that only entails freedom to steal and freedom to create more deprivation for those who already have less. It is also infuriating that he who now wears the presidential sash does not occupy the position because of the people's will, but because of the will of money and fear.

"The brutal assassination of outstanding individuals from the country's political arena has deeply hurt citizens. It has sowed unrest and doubt over certain institutions. We must admit this. It has divided Mexicans." Yes, but not only those crimes. We must also talk about the ones perpetrated day and night by all members of the government's apparatus, starting from the ones committed by the former head of the executive branch down to the lowest-ranking municipal officials.

You ask for unity and point out that "the time has come for us to contribute our efforts without sacrificing our differences," but you are only seeking the acceptance and the legitimacy not given to you by the people's votes. The expressions of your offer of a "permanent dialogue" can already be observed with the repression with which December started out. Perhaps you envision a kind of "dialogue commission" formed by troops and policemen to deal with the media and the opposition.

It is unnecessary to say that as president of the republic you will not intervene "in any way in the processes and decisions that only concern the party" to which you belong. That is already being done by Mr. Carlos Salinas de Gortari. His cabinet and the impunity enjoyed by top PRI leaders are evidence of this.

Of course we agree when you say that "at this historic moment, no one should avoid his responsibilities, no one should spare any effort, no one should fall into the temptation of dropping his guard."

We Zapatists will not avoid our responsibility, and we are not going to spare any effort, and we are not going to fall into the temptation of dropping our guard. We are going continue fighting with our weapons in our arms against the state party system, the same one that allows the figure of Salinism to neatly emerge from behind you.

Now, and since 17 November 1994 I have borne the scepter of the rebel forces. Consequently, I assume the responsibility for responding to you on behalf of our entire army.

In this, your first speech as president, you stated your desire to seek negotiations to resolve the conflict, and you offered us this road.

Mr. Zedillo, it is my duty to tell you that we cannot believe you. You are part of a system that has led us to the biggest aberration, where you resort to assassinations to iron our your differences, as if you were a group of criminals. You do not address us as representatives of the nation. You speak with a big stain on your words: the stain of the blood of thousands of murders, including those in your political circle, a stain that permeates the PRI. Why should we believe in the sincerity of your invitation to a negotiated solution?

Since the beginning of the presidential term, the increase of troops and the reinforcement of a device for annihilation is evident. Since 14 November, the continuous overflights are evident in the so-called "Hercules" planes, transporting men and military equipment to the command units in their anti-rebel bases on the border with Guatemala. The foreign "military advisers" (and I want to explain that they are not Argentine because animals do not have a country) have prepared their students. They have concluded their task; I suppose now they are ready. We know the number and the location of their troops, their general strategy, and some of their tactical plans. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything in military and political terms. The siege prevent us from any major action, and our repeated reports on the increases in preparations for battle have reached a nation plunged into weariness and frustration.

Let it be know by you that I have issued orders for all members of the CCRI to take shelter to guarantee that the political leadership of our just cause is not lost. Let it also be known by you that I have issued instructions to all the military top brass to remain—as in January—at the head of the various units. I will do the same. I have taken the necessary measures so that, should I fall, my successors in the military command may assume control without excessive difficulty.

Our greatest strength is also our greatest weakness. The support of the civilian population, that which permitted

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us to grow and made us strong, now obliges us to abandon all attempt at a withdrawal that does not include them. That is why for us a step back is no longer possible. We must fight alongside the people, who in the past protected us, by being the shield and *guardian of their lives.* I know this separates from us any possibility of survival. Confronting as a regular army another regular army that surpasses us in men and weapons, although not in morale, the possibilities of success are nil. Surrender has already been *expressly prohibited*; the Zapatist chiefs who opt for this recourse will be immediately repudiated. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of this war, sooner or later the sacrifice that now seems useless and sterile to many will be compensated by the thunderbolts that will light other lands. The light will surely reach the deep south and light Mar del Plata, the Andes, the land of Artigas, Paraguay, and all that inverted and absurd pyramid that is Latin America. Power is not on our side; power has never been on the side of the have-nots. But historic reason, honor, and that ardor we feel in the heart—and that is called dignity—makes us, those who are nameless today, the real men and women of always.

With the clumsy image of the exchange of a watch for a jacket, we received your offer for us to "become part of the solution" and for a direct and secret dialogue. Regarding "being an active part in the implementation of actions," I must explain to you that if you are referring to the price of Zapatist dignity, you must know that there is not enough money in the entire nation to even come close. Do not deceive yourself into thinking that our cry of "Everything for everyone, nothing for ourselves," is a passing fad or trick to conceal our ambition for power. The Zapatists do not have a price, simply because dignity does not have a price.

Regarding the direct and secret dialogue, as supreme leader of the EZLN I solemnly reject your invitation to a secret negotiation behind the nation's back.

You say that after years of war, thousands of deaths, and great destruction, we will end up negotiating, that it is better to do now, that war must be avoided. But what war is it that you want to prevent? The one we began against your system, making use of the legitimate right to rebellion and self-defense? Or the one you have been waging since you are the power and government in these Mexican lands? The war we want to prevent is the war waged against us by the political system that is behind and above you. It is the war against every attempt at democratization, against all desire for justice, against all aspirations for freedom. That is the war we Mexicans endure and the one that must end. Once it is over, the other war, ours, everyone's war, will end up extinguished. Useless and sterile, it will banish like a nightmare that is over at daybreak. That is the peace we want. Any effort in a different direction is deceit.

Wanting to avoid the war of the have-nots, by continuing or escalating the war that marches at the pace of the powerful will, only puts off the execution of a historical sentence: the victory of democracy, freedom, and justice on Mexican soil and in Mexican skies.

If you are a man of honor and dignity, I invite you to give up what was wrongly secured, that is, the leadership of the federal executive. You should give up bearing the shame of spearheading that big lie that betrayed the hope of the Mexican people for a peaceful change to democracy. But, before that, bring Carlos Salinas de Gortari to a political trial, thereby preventing the world from suffering another deceit that is on the verge of occurring at the WTO [World Trade Organization], as happened in NAFTA. Before that, as supreme chief of the Federal Army, release officers and the rank and file so that they may chose the road of their conscience and patriotic convictions. Do not humiliate them by forcing them to accept foreign meddling that advises them on how to kill Mexicans.

As far as I am concerned, I have do the same with my troops. I have released them from all commitment of continuing, and I have allowed them to chose surrender and conformity. None has accepted. Nothing ties them to our ranks, not a salary, not threats. Shame and dignity are difficult chains to break. All have this time chosen the road they chose yesterday, that of patriotism and justice.

For my part, I confess I made a mistake about you. In February, I thought that your patriotic interest would be greater than your arrogance, that with intelligence all of you would realize that you had now become the main obstacle to the nation's development. I thought you would step aside and open the door to a peaceful transition to democracy. But this did not occur. You decided to slam shut the door on 21 August and repeat the arrogance of the *clean sweep policy.* It just happens that throughout history the doors of peaceful change and violent change, of peace and war are inversely related; in closing one, the other opens. By closing the door on a peaceful change to democracy, you have opened the heavy door to war.

Your awkward conduct in Chiapas has jerked me back to reality: the state party system is not intelligent. Moreover, I can see now that imbecility is inherent in its state of decay. Having had an opportunity to defuse the political environment of the conflict, you not only maintained it but intensified it, and led sectors which heretofore had distanced themselves to the extremes of polarization. The deterioration is irreversible, there are no in-betweens, the confrontation is on, and one extreme is already demanding the disappearance of the other. We have grown by the tens of thousands. As I said before, the supreme government has always adopted pertinent measures to resolve problems and to make us believe. At the risk of disappearing through political isolation or a vacuum, the government, with its awkward local and regional policies, is fueling a fire in which sooner or later it will be destroyed.

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You must disappear, not only because you represent a historical aberration, a human denial, and a cynical cruelty, but also because you represent an insult to intelligence. You made us possible; you made us grow. We are the other you, your Siamese opposite. For us to disappear, you must disappear.

It is very difficult to try to listen to you. A person assumes that he is conversing with rational beings, and it turns out that this is not true. Accustomed as you are to buying, corrupting, imposing, breaking, and murdering anything that stands in your way, when you encounter dignity you adopt the position of the shrewd merchant who seeks the best price for whatever he wants to obtain. This has been your system's attitude during this unstable 11-month truce. It is the "intelligent" attitude of the person who stands in front of a *slot machine* [preceding two words published in English] and, after depositing a coin, expects to receive the product he has selected and purchased: peace.

I want you to know that we have done everything possible to keep the conflict within the political sphere, avoiding at all cost the resumption of hostilities. We have summoned various national political figures, inviting them to participate in an initiative that would direct, through political and civilian means, the discontent that will now burst into violence. If these figures refuse to risk their political capital on a fair demand—annulment of the elections, a transitional government, and a new electoral process—there will be no solution, and the horror will be inevitable. Mexico today has no politicians willing to risk their public image by supporting the struggle for democracy. Nevertheless, the fact that they do not exist today does not mean that in the future we will not see the emergence of men and women for whom politics will not be a synonym for cynicism and surrender disguised as "gradualism."

Mr. Ernesto Zedillo:

Until now you were no more than just another citizen to us. Now you are the official heir to a system that has no compunction whatsoever about sacrificing the country's future and national sovereignty. As of today, in the unlikely event that you should attempt to contact us, I must explain that we will go public with any communication that comes from your administration, for as long as that administration may last.

I am certain that in your rise to power you encountered men and women who were willing to sell themselves and to "reasonably" yield, which is but an arguable surrender. The men and women who since 1 January 1994 have confronted the state party system are members of a race which perhaps you have not encountered in the past.

We are men and women for whom "fatherland," "democracy," "freedom," and "justice" must be, in addition to being great and noble words, a combined reality for the Mexican nation. For us, to live without having achieved this goal is a shame, and to die in the struggle to achieve it is an honor.

I want you to know that henceforth I carry with me, not only the seven elements of the Zapatist Staff of Command, but the two original volumes of the 1917 edition of the *Diary of Debates of the Constituent Congress From November 1916 to February 1917*. Until a new Constitution is drafted, for us the only valid one is the original 1917 Constitution. And it will inspire our struggle.

In historical terms, you and I are worth very little; different factors have brought us face-to-face. You personify all reactionary and antidemocratic values that run counter to the interests of the have-nots. We personify only hope. The hope of having, at last, the opportunity of determining our own fate. The hope that democracy, liberty, and justice will cease being nouns in speeches and textbooks. The hope that things will materialize for everyone but, above all, for those who have nothing. You have a face and a name, a present, a past, and a future. In our name we bear the curse of bearing arms in our hands and the honor of rescuing a history of dignity; in our surname we bear our national and liberating inclination. We are simply candidates for burial in a common grave who will be immediately forgotten.

But among "us" there are already thousands of Mexicans from throughout the national territory: men, women, children, and the elderly, who have recovered dignity and the conviction that human beings must struggle to become free when they are slaves, and that those who are free must struggle to ensure that other human beings may also be free.

We know that our refusal to hold talks under the conditions you propose will make the military solution take center stage among your possible decisions. We do not fear death or the judgment of history.

If it is true that the entire nation is willing to renounce its hopes for liberty and democracy, then the clamor demanding our annihilation will be gigantic and you will have nothing to worry about. High-ranking federal leaders said that they will eliminate us in a matter of hours; if there is bad weather, in a matter of days. Thus the stock market, the currency market, and the balance of payments will suffer for only a few more days.

If, to the contrary, as we think, the Mexican people want to hear a dignified and rebellious scream, then millions of voices will join ours demanding the fulfillment of three conditions for a dignified peace: democracy, liberty, and justice.

You are no longer just yourself. You now personify an unjust, antidemocratic, and criminal system. We the "outlaws," the "violators of the law," and the "professionals of violence," and "the nameless" represent, now and always, the hopes of all.

This is nothing personal, Mr. Zedillo. It simply happens that we aim to change the world. The political system that you represent is our main obstacle.

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That is all, Mr. Zedillo. I am addressing you sincerely, as I do not think—perhaps I am wrong—you did. I reaffirm to you our demands for peace: *democracy, liberty, and justice for ALL Mexicans.*

There will be war on Mexican land as long as these demands are not fulfilled.

You will need health and a parachute for the precipice that you will face in the future.

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico,

Insurgent Subcommander Marcos.

Mexico, November 1994.

Chiapas Governor-Elect on Poverty, Unemployment

PA0912011194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Report by Raul Torres; from the "Early Morning" newcast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Torres] The way to change the situation in Chiapas is to struggle against poverty and to have a pluralist government. For this reason, the Chiapas Fund has been organized, through which national and local businessmen will attempt to create the 200,000 jobs needed and to make the best use of the state's natural resources. All of this was presented by Eduardo Robledo, governor-elect of Chiapas.

[Robledo] "It is necessary to foster economic reactivation with projects that generate jobs. Chiapas currently has almost 200,000 unemployed. Until we are able to provide them with jobs, to generate the productive occupation of these thousands of Chiapas residents in the Indian sector, in the peasant sector, and in some urban areas, it will be very difficult for us Chiapas residents to find the serenity, the peace that we all desire."

[Torres] The offers to the businesmen are many.

[Robledo] "To create the conditions whereby the diverse regions of the state can develop productive areas, we need to calm the spirits of the Chiapas residents in the regions where we have not reached an agreement. I have a great deal of faith that we will achieve this. We need to secure peace; however, we need development."

[Torres] To achieve stability, a summons is made for a social agreement in Chiapas, where all the sectors can converge.

[Robledo] "I have stated the need to construct in Chiapas a new social agreement. Either Chiapas belongs to all Chiapas residents or it belongs to no one. I believe that this can only be achieved through a pluralist government; through a government that incorporates all the expressions, all the expressions of those who think differently, who are, however from Chiapas and who have a right to think differently, by joining a pluralist government. From that pluralist government, we can set the foundations to construct a new social agreement".

[Torres] The resources will be earmarked for practically all the productive areas in the region with a clear vision.

[Enrique Molina, from the Escorpion Group, in progress] "...and, we have the enormous responsibility of raising the economic levels of the people."

[Torres] With a message from the person who is in the center of the conflict and who is a few hours away from being the constitutional governor of Chiapas.

[Robledo] "More Chiapas residents deserve a better future where together we can face the big enemy, poverty; the big enemy, unemployment; and the big enemy, neglecting the downtrodden."

EZLN Disavows Chiapas Governor-Elect

PA0812143094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Dec p 17

[Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army "from the mountains of southeastern Mexico" on 6 December—passages within boldface as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the Mexican People:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

Brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] declares the following:

Whereas:

In the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas, an attempt is underway to impose the now shameful PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] member Eduardo Robledo Rincon against the will of the people as expressed in vast demonstrations and actions of civil resistance.

The majority will of the Chiapas people was to elect the candidate of the civilian society, Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa, as governor to head a government of transition to democracy.

The latest civilian demonstrations have been strongly repressed by the government, the white guards of the big ranchers, and businessmen who have resumed their campaign of attacks against the Indian people

The EZLN has reiterated many times its respect of the people's will.

The period of peaceful civil resistance will end the moment Mr. Eduardo Robledo takes office and supplants the state executive power.

Resolves:

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First. To disavow the next PRI governor of the executive state of Chiapas.

Second. To recognize Mr. Eduardo Robledo Rincon's taking of office as the formal break of the cease-fire on the part of the federal government.

Third. To recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as constitutional governor of the state of Chiapas.

Fourth. To declare in rebellion the territories currently occupied by the civilian population who support our just cause.

Fifth. To invite Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa to head the rebellious popular government of the southeastern state of Chiapas.

Sixth. In keeping with the formal break in the cease-fire on the part of the federal government, the EZLN considers itself free of the commitment to maintain the unilateral cease-fire decreed by the General Command on 12 January 1994 and approved on 10 June 1994.

DEMOCRACY!

LIBERTY!

JUSTICE!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

Inauguration of Robledo as Chiapas Governor Takes Place

Tight Security Implemented

PA0812153694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexican Army forces are strongly guarding the surroundings of the Emilio O. Rabaza Theater, in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State, where Eduardo Robledo Rincon will take office in 40 minutes as constitutional governor of the state of Chiapas. The ceremony will be attended by President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon as honorary witness. There are strong security measures in Tuxtla Gutierrez Gutierrez, Chiapas. [passage omitted]

There are 11 roadblocks in various parts of Chiapas State in protest of the swear in of Eduardo Robledo Rincon. Schools are closed in Chiapas State today. We already reported at the beginning of this cast that stores closed today as a preventive measure against possible violent demonstrations. The situation is one of tense calm but quiet. Robledo will speak only when he takes his oath. Javier Lopez Moreno will turn over the governorship at 0900.

Meanwhile, several universities here in Mexico City such as the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM], the Autonomous Metropolitan University, and certain CCH [expansion unknown] are closed. The students are protesting, because Robledo Rincon is taking office. UNAM is not holding classes today as a protest, and these are reactions to everything that is going on in Chiapas. [passage omitted]

Robledo Promises Electoral Law, Constitution

PA0812164194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1551 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eduardo Robledo Rincon was sworn in as the constitutional governor of Chiapas a few minutes ago. In his inaugural address, he said that justice has failed in Chiapas. Speaking in the presence of President Ernesto Zedillo, Robledo set his government's guidelines.

For safety reasons, this report will be aired in Chiapas no earlier than 1000 [1600 GMT], but it has already been received by this station.

[Begin Robledo recording] We will immediately begin preparing a proposal for an electoral law that will meet the demands for honesty, impartiality, objectivity, and certitude in the electoral process. The elections coming up in November will thus stop being a source of conflict. We all will have to accept its results. The State Electoral Commission will be presided over by a Chiapas-born citizen, who will guarantee neutrality and impartiality for all parties in the exercise of the commission's functions.

Under this new state electoral law, we will participate in the November 1995 legislative and municipal elections. The new legislature will become a constituent congress, which will represent Chiapas society and approve and promulgate the new Chiapas Constitution. The new social pact that will govern the state's institutional life will be set out in this document.

Political power and public life will be reorganized through this constitution. The will of all of the people of Chiapas will be taken into consideration. [applause] [end recording]

Zedillo Gives Speech

PA0812174694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1628 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Speech by President Zedillo, following the inauguration of Chiapas Governor Robledo, in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, on 8 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fellow compatriots of Chiapas, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

My presence in Chiapas is for peace. I wanted my first visit to a federal state as president of the republic to be to

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Chiapas, because I am deeply committed to all the men and women of this extraordinary state.

I have come here to express my unwavering feeling that we must and can achieve peace, harmony, and justice through dialogue, negotiation, and good faith. I have come to Chiapas to reiterate that I will heed the demands of those people who are suffering in poverty, which affects the lives and dignity of thousands of men and women, particularly in the Indian communities.

I have come here to express with absolute clarity that as president of the republic I will fully adhere to my pledge to get to the roots of your problems. Those roots are poverty, neglect, the lack [three-second break in reception] exclusion. Thus, as president of the republic I am hereby reaffirming that the federal government will resolutely support the people and government of Chiapas and help them overcome their backwardness and necessities.

As president of the republic, I am firmly determined that Chiapas should receive the attention and support which, in all justice, its people are demanding. Therefore, every day of my mandate I will ensure that Chiapas receives the priority attention to which I have committed myself. I must underscore that the state and federal governments have agreed to form a commission for the development and well-being of Chiapas. I have agreed with the governor to install this commission next week.

Participants in the commission will include several federal executive and state executive organizations, which will ensure that the programs and actions that are required for the state's development will be established and executed, that they will be followed up in a timely manner, and that the projects, plans, and programs will be fulfilled to the satisfaction of the people of Chiapas.

It is very encouraging that Governor Robledo Rincon has asked all the people of Chiapas to undertake a transition that will establish new foundations for progress in rural development, based on a new agrarian pact; the promotion of economic activities that will take advantage of the state's natural resources; attention to the backwardness affecting the Indian communities; the beginning of a profound reform in the administration of justice; and the achievement of definitive electoral reform.

The government of the republic will join the people of Chiapas in each of their decisions, demands, and desires.

Governor Robledo has said that the new grass roots will result from participation and consensus by the people of Chiapas. The federal government will support the decisions of the state government in order to quickly achieve a new economic, social, and political order on which to firmly base the restoration of power here in the state in terms acceptable to all.

Friends of Chiapas: Chiapas and all Mexico want to live in peace and harmony. Chiapas and all Mexico want to live in a legal state, consolidated by democracy, dialogue, and understanding. Chiapas and all Mexico want to live in greater justice—justice based on development, well-being, and opportunities for all.

Peace can and should be everyone's option. Only in peace will we recover the tranquillity for which the citizens so yearn. Only in peace will we ensure that no one tries to make justice for himself, hurting the human rights and dignity of others. Only in peace will we ensure that respect for laws and tolerance will prevail, that justice through law will be recognized by all, and that there will be social equity based on prosperity.

We all want to start working to build peace and harmony, democracy and understanding, and the justice and well-being to which all the people of Chiapas have a right. This demands that we always choose the road of dialogue to satisfy everyone's demands—never the road of confrontation from which we all emerge defeated.

That is why I confirm that I have given precise instructions to the Mexican Army to maintain the cease-fire. I emphatically confirm, to all of you, that the federal government will not initiate any violent act or undergo any authoritarian measure in Chiapas.

Unilateral actions, by their very nature, are exclusionary and thus cannot last. Negotiations are the basis for solutions, in which we all recognize one another, we all defend, we all share.

Today in Mexico, those of us who have faith for a better future for the country seek dialogue, defend dialogue, and strengthen dialogue. In Chiapas, dialogue is the path to resolving fair claims, on which to properly base nonconformity, and to fulfilling everyone's yearning for work and tranquillity. The well-being, prosperity, and justice that men and women of this great state demand can only be built in peace and harmony, can only be built with everyone's help, without sacrificing differences, but by bringing talent and resolve together. Peace and harmony are lasting if they are fed by dialogue.

As president of the republic, I state that today more than ever I am firmly committed to the search for dialogue, because dialogue will yield the fair and dignified peace we all want.

In Chiapas, the time has come to stop the deterioration that has so hurt the dignity of its men and women. [11-second break in reception] the enormous development potential of the state. Here the time has come to unite in peace so that the men and women of this land of rich diversity and deep dignity can be proud of belonging to Chiapas, of belonging to Mexico.

Opposition Shadow Governor Sworn In

PA0812204994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1920 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon, good afternoon, listerners. Approximately 25 minutes ago Amado Avendano was sworn in as the shadow governor of Chiapas. The swearing in was held in the Plaza de Armas in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas.

The event was indubitably of great significance, mostly to the nearly 3,500 peasants gathered at the site. The sun was burning fiercely. The mood here in the capital city is one of apprehension. No one knows what is going to happen.

At any rate, Amado Avendano, even though he had announced that he would arrive at 0900, finally arrived at 1100.

Immediately after his arrival the speeches began, as did shouts of encouragement.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified man] Here, there, the struggle will continue! Here, there, the struggle will continue. [end recording]

In this main plaza, some desperate peasants sought shelter from the heat under trees and even sought the shade of a flagpole.

Nevertheless, at 1230 Amado Avendano arrived—at that very moment. Before this a ceremony was held. Amado Avendano accepted the scepter of command [baston de mando] from some Indian communities, including Tzotziles, Zoques, and Tzeltales. The patriarchs of these communities accorded him this command, and he swore to [word indistinct] and protect the Indian communities.

[Begin Avendano recording, in progress] ...make them grow; that we all become brothers—Indians, Tzeltales, the mestizos, the poor and the rich, the good and the bad—there are those too. Before you, I pledge my heart, my resolve, and if God permits, I will be a good governor of Chiapas because this is what you asked, this is what you want, and this is what you deserve. Many thanks. [applause] [end recording]

Then came his speech, the official part, as he called it. He called on all policemen and soldiers in Chiapas not to use their weapons. He said that peace is fundamental for this state.

[Begin Avendano recording] I want to first say to the policemen, the soldiers disguised as civilians, that these people of Chiapas respect you, love you, because you are also our brothers. We ask that you never fire your weapons against the people because the Chiapas policemen and soldiers are not assassins, it is the power of the rich, the power of the official party, which has pushed them into betraying the people. [applause] [end recording]

This parallel ceremony was held amid strict PRD security measures. Journalists were attacked; there was shoving and pushing. A reporter was struck with a stick because he tried to climb up and take a photograph. People could be seen constantly watching the movements of all reporters there.

Nevertheless, Amado Avendano delivered a far harsher and far more official speech. He said that above anything else, he disavowed Eraclio Zepeda, who already was part of Eduardo Robledo Rincon's cabinet, sworn in as governor just a few hours earlier.

[Begin Avendano recording] Chiapas brothers, we are not an employment office, either. I very much regret that Eraclio Zepeda accepted the post of the governor's secretary. He was part of a solemn and sacred assembly, which was the National Mediation Commission, and now he has converted it into an employment office. We are sorry, but this is a fact. [end recording]

Amado Avendano called on all the people of Chiapas to form a transitional government, this government that he will head. He said that a new constitution will be created and that, before anything else is done, a new electoral law will be created which will allow, to his way of thinking, fairer and more honest elections. He added that he was headed to San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, where he will begin to organize his parallel government, to which he has committed himself this morning.

Rebel Governor Interviewed

PA0912042194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Amado Avendano Figueroa, former PRD candidate for governor of Chiapas State, in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, by Jose Cardenas in Mexico City—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Cardenas] We now have a telephone interview with Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa, formerly a PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] candidate for governor of Chiapas. As we said a few minutes ago, Mr. Avendano was sworn in as rebel governor of Chiapas State in Tuxtla Gutierrez today. Mr. Avendano, thank you for accepting this call. Good evening.

[Avendano] Good evening.

[Cardenas] Could you tell us what is going on in the state? How is it possible to have two governors in the state at one time? This is confusing.

[Avendano] It is confusing but it is a reality, Sir. Here we are in San Cristobal de Las Casas. We are now at the National Indian Institute, which has already been expropriated, quote unquote, by the Indian groups of Los Altos de Chiapas. They offered me this place and they gave me the keys to an office where we are going to install the headquarters of the new rebel government in Chiapas.

[Cardenas] Why this attitude to swear in a parallel government at this time. It is a dangerous time for Chiapas. It could lead to a bloody, armed conflict.

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[Avendano] That is what we say. The government of Eduardo Robledo Rincon should not have been installed, but the government was determined to swear him in today. There you have him. We are the legitimate government. We do not want war, but these gentlemen are promoting it with their recalcitrant position of not wanting to recognize the victory of the people of Chiapas. That is the way it is, Sir.

[Cardenas] Eduardo Robledo made a proposal today when he was sworn in as the constitutional governor of the state. He convened a constituent congress; he convened a pluralistic, apolitical government that can answer the demands of the people, who have been waiting for 500 years. No one is arguing that. Is that not enough to initiate or to attempt a peace dialogue in Chiapas?

[Avendano] Of course it is not enough, Sir, because we do not believe the government. We do not believe the ruling party. They have fooled us for so many presidential terms, and we are not willing to allow them to continue to treat us like children. We are adults now. We are not mentally retarded, so we do not believe the lies they have always been telling us. Today we left those proposals behind us and are assuming the legitimate government of the Chiapas.

[Cardenas] How dangerous is that for the state at this time? How dangerous is this for peace, for the possibility of a dialogue or an agreement?

[Avendano] We have been living in danger for many years, especially since 1 January. One learns to live in danger and learns to live with risks. This is another risk, Sir.

[Cardenas] Mr. Amado Avendano, the president of the republic said bridges are being built to the PRD. Can bridges be built to the nonconformists or rebels of Chiapas so there can be an agreement that will keep this situation from adversely affecting the peace and tranquillity of the state?

[Avendano] We hope they hurry up and build the bridges before it is too late, Sir.

[Cardenas] The president said when he was in Chiapas today that Mr. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas is a man who believes in politics and has a strong influence in the area. He said he could participate as a mediator. How would you view this participation?

[Avendano] We hope Mr. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas accepts this proposal. He is a great friend of many people in Chiapas, so that is a hope that we have been given. For the time being, those are only words spoken by the president. Until we see Mr. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas here, we are not going to believe those words. They have fooled us so often for so many presidential terms that we no longer believe in them. We only believe in realities, Sir.

[Cardenas] What are your immediate plans, Mr. Amado Avendano? What are your plans for this parallel rebel government based in San Cristobal de Las Casas?

[Avendano] For the time being, we are cleaning out an office that the Indians of Los Altos de Chiapas have offered us. Tomorrow we are going to be looking for a desk and a chair to start working. We are going to be working later on with the state assembly of the people of Chiapas. We are also going to be working with the rank and file of each autonomous municipality. We are going to initiate the new Chiapas program, which we believe will be working soon, at least in northern Chiapas and on the coast of Chiapas.

[Cardenas] Do you have plans to create a government that could, in the long run, separate Chiapas from the rest of the country if your demands are not met?

[Avendano] No sir. We are Mexicans of good stock. We have Mexico in our hearts. We believe in the principle of federalism in Mexico, and no one can take that away from us, Sir. We are flesh and blood Mexicans, and we do not want others to despise us. We are Mexicans, and we are going to demonstrate it.

[Cardenas] The only possibility of ending the problem is the resignation of Eduardo Robledo Rincon?

[Avendano] Not really. It could be one of a series of requirements. When the Zapatists took up arms, Eduardo Robledo Rincon and Amado Avendano did not exist, therefore, that could be one of many pretexts that complicated the life of Chiapas. That resignation is not so important, but we are going to try to get him to resign as soon as possible because the legitimate government is the one the people have demanded at this time.

[Cardenas] Are you going to seek a dialogue, a reconciliation to resolve the prewar situation in the state?

[Avendano] Of course. We are seeking peace because we are intelligent. We do not want war, but the causes of war remain. For the past year the government has been postponing the solution to this problem. The basic needs of the people of Chiapas were never met by the federal government. It only tried to justify its actions through the media, but the people of Chiapas and the Zapatistas continue to have their same problems.

[Cardenas] What will be the first actions taken by your parallel government? You have already been sworn in. You are now at the National Indian Institute in San Cristobal de Las Casas and have begun to rule the state.

[Avendano] The first thing will be to call the legitimate representatives of each town to sit down in San Cristobal de Las Casas to organize ourselves to find solutions to the priority problems of the state. For example, we have schools but there are no teachers or books. We have health centers, but no medicine or doctors. The people continue to die of curable diseases. There are many other problems like these.

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[Cardenas] There were talks held at the Government Secretariat with new Secretary Moctezuma this weekend. Were any agreements reached?

[Avendano] No, because the same problems remained unresolved. They were determined to have Eduardo Robledo Rincon sworn in as governor of the state. We did not accept that position. We only agreed to respect each other's swearing-in ceremonies. They said their policemen would remain at a distance from our ceremony to avoid a confrontation, and that is what happened.

[Cardenas] The situation is as follows: You are the rebel governor of Chiapas. There are two governments in the state. There are also two armies there.

[Avendano] There are two governments, but I am not the general of the troops in the jungle. That must be made clear. I do not have any command over those troops. They support my government as they have said so. There are two governments. We are going to try to prevent the other government from proceeding with its plans. Until we see Eduardo Robledo Rincon's resignation, we are not going to be at ease, sir.

[Cardenas] Robledo Rincon's swearing-in ceremony, is it a provocation? Is your swearing-in ceremony a provocation?

[Avendano] It depends on whom you ask, because I do not see any provocation.

[Cardenas] Yours or Robledo's?

[Avendano] There are two roosters in each corner here. Let's see who crows first.

[Cardenas] But there is a single state and a single people, which is Chiapas.

[Avendano] You are right. The people of Chiapas are here around me. They filled a plaza and followed me from Tuxtla Gutierrez. I believe I am right. I believe I won the elections on 21 August, but the government and its party do not want to admit it. Regardless of the reason, they will have to accept it, otherwise we are going to have problems. There are already problems in Chiapas.

[Cardenas] Sir, we thank you for this opportunity to talk to you directly in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas.

[Avendano] Thank you, sir

Marcos Calls For Unity of Democratic Convention

PA0812185494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 18

[Letter to the National Democratic Convention and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas from the EZLN's "Insurgent" Subcommander Marcos; issued in Mexico on 4 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] 4 December 1994

To: National Democratic Convention.

To: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano.

From: Insurgent Subcommander Marcos.

Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

General Headquarters.

The mountains of southeastern Mexico, Chiapas.

Mexico.

I hereby address myself through this medium to you, in the name of all men, women, children, and the elderly who make up the EZLN, to make remarks on several matters in which your participation is important.

As you surely know from reports in the media, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon has been sworn in as president of the republic. His first action was to form a cabinet that represents a continuation of Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government. As it happened during the Maximate [probably a reference to the reign of Archduke Maximilian of Austria, installed as emperor of Mexico by Napoleon III in 1865], a former president who distinguished himself by plunging the country into political instability, social uncertainty, and economic imbalance attempts to perpetuate himself in power by manipulating the most prominent public figures.

The present government not only represents the continuation of an undemocratic policy but mocks national feelings as well. The appointment to lofty positions of people suspected of participating in the assassination of important people, the haughty and bloody treatment of the true opposition, the shameful imposition of foreign advisers on the federal armed institution, and the historic backward step that the omnipresence of the Salinas-Cordoba duo entails represents the biggest affront to national sovereignty and the people's desire for democratic change.

For various reasons and to different strata of the Mexican population, you represent the alternative for peaceful democratic change. Circumstances, especially the government's action, have kept you two separated, each struggling on his own for one and the same cause, the transition to democracy in Mexico.

Today, when one more historic ridicule has been perpetrated by imposing Zedillo on the presidential seat, determined action is necessary to resist a situation that underlines the loss of national sovereignty and hurls us over the precipice of a fratricidal war. The two of you can head a broad opposition front which, through civil and peaceful actions, could demand the illegal government's resignation, the establishment of a transitional government, in- depth and radical electoral reform, and the convocation of new elections within a framework of equality.

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Halfway through the 19th century, Mexico had in Benito Juarez's government a number of brilliant men and women and patriots who, despite foreign threats and even in the midst of armed intervention, saved the republic and consolidated the independent and sovereign history of our then young nation. Now we do not have one Mexican citizen of Juarez's lofty stature. But we do have men and women of a caliber equal to or higher than the caliber of those who were with him during the homeland's difficult times, which are similar to the present. Those men and women are represented by you. It is only necessary for someone to call on them. Your union can make it possible.

In your union millions of hopeful Mexicans would see a real chance for attaining democracy, freedom, and justice. It would also be an alternative to the submissiveness of the legal opposition in Mexico.

I hereby invite you two to join forces and issue a call for the formation of this great and broad opposition movement to restore legality, legitimacy, order, and national sovereignty. I hereby invite you two to fight to make the two extremes of this struggle disappear. These two extremes are an illegal, turncoat government on the one hand and an equally illegal, rebellious armed movement on the other.

You have nothing to lose, and the nation's history has much to gain for its now uncertain future.

In case you, together or separately, turn your backs on this task that the nation, through the voices of its most forgotten and humiliated children, is asking you two to carry out, the future will be more cruel and difficult.

Dawn will come, even if with bloodshed. This is a promise.

Greetings. Let your present unite you, and let whatever keeps you separated be relegated to another future.

Yours respectfully, from the mountains of southeastern Mexico.

Insurgent Subcommander Marcos, Zapatist National Liberation Army.

Mexico, December 1994.

Zapatist Northern Army Sends Message of Support to EZLN

PA0812133194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p 48

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called Zapatist Northern Revolutionary Army (EZRN) [Ejercito Zapatista Revolucionario del Norte] yesterday sent to the editorial room of this newspaper a brief, three-paragraph message to the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN). The message reads as follows:

"Companeros: We too believe that we are at a crucial point which cannot be ignored and that we must react with all necessary strength so our rights and identity within a multiethnic nation are recognized.

"Therefore, our army pledges to always be with you and give you all the support needed, regardless of the type of struggle you may decide to wage in the near future.

"For our brothers and for a better and freer Mexico. Fatherland or death. We will keep in touch. Zapatist Northern Revolutionary Army."

The message sent by the alleged revolutionary group came from "California," and was signed by "Commander Jeronimo."

Zedillo Administration Makes New Appointments

PA0812213794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New appointments were made today in the Zedillo administration.

Jose Merino Manoso was appointed assistant secretary of electricity at the Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Secretariat; Maria Esther Sherman became senior official at the Energy Secretariat; Admiral Omar Diaz Gonzalez was confirmed as assistant secretary of the Navy; (Carlos Basdretch), director of the National Council of Science and Technology; Fernando Sanchez Ugarte, director of the Federal Commission of Economic Competence [Comision Federal de Competencia Economica] at the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development; Jaime Mario Villars, general director of exploration and production at Pemex [Mexican Petroleum]; Adrian Lajous, general director of refining at Pemex.

(Pedro Haas Garcia) was appointed director of natural gas and basic petrochemicals at Pemex; (Luis Piug Lara), general director of petrochemicals at Pemex; and Alejandro Montano Martinez, was confirmed as general director of radio, television, and cinematography at the Government Secretariat.

Changes were also made at the National Executive Committee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI].

Andres Diez Camarin was appointed finance secretary; Heriberto Galindo Quinonez was appointed information and propaganda secretary; and (Graciela Brasdefer) was appointed treasurer of the PRI.

Zedillo Holds Dialogue With Deputies

PA0912044894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good afternoon to all our listeners. Protocol was unquestionably broken today at the Chamber of Deputies. Old traditions were broken, as

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President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon pointed out, with the direct dialogue he held with the legislators. From very early, at 1430 hours, almost all of the guests were already at the tables. The tables were arranged to seat over 100 diners each. They awaited the special guest, the president of the Republic, who arrived at 1500 sharp and entered through the front entrance of the Chamber of Deputies. There was a lot of protocol. The event began with dinner, a brief dinner, primarily because most of the legislators had agreed that the main issue was to get to the coffee as soon as possible, because, from that moment on, dialogue with the president would begin.

The dialogue, of course, began. It was started off by Heriberto Galindo Quinones, a member of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], who said that from that moment on, national dialogue should be open and in particular, it should seek the emergence of new ideas within diversity, to thus deal with the (?challenges) the country is facing. We must, Galindo said, correct mistakes and look on the positive side, but this, he said on the PRI's behalf, must also be based on respect between the two branches of state: the legislative and executive branches.

[Begin Galindo Quinones recording] The principle that is common to us all and which also gives us a sense of self, is respect for autonomy. The legislative branch is and will be jealous of its autonomy, which strengthens the state and society, but we will never become stubborn because no one would benefit from it. [end recording]

There can be no question that Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon's answer was going to be important. Although he waited to answer the legislators' questions until after they had all been asked, we will gradually give you all of Dr. Zedillo's answers to those questions little by little.

In response to the PRI deputy's proposal—after thanking him for his invitation to sovereignty, and after especially acknowledging that the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] representatives pushed for this meeting—the president said: We will struggle so that the autonomy of the branches will be real, so that each of them will be especially strengthened, and so that the position of the Congress of the Union will also be strengthened.

[Begin Zedillo recording] I cannot conceive of a division of branches and, therefore, I cannot conceive of strengthening democracy, which the Mexican people have so demanded, without a fully autonomous legislative branch, and without leaving behind the disadvantageous relations that have existed between the executive and legislative. Therefore, I reiterate, I will be a president who respects the legislative. I will submit to laws based on popular sovereignty; in a word, I will be a president who obeys the law; the laws that you make as a result of the mandate conferred upon you. [end recording]

The next person on the list of speakers was PAN [National Action Party] Deputy Ricardo Garcia Cervantes, coordinator of the PAN faction. He spoke of the electoral reform, which he said should not be only at the federal level but in all the states and municipalities. It must be a real and effective reform.

President Zedillo Ponce De Leon had only one answer: We must all work so that democracy can go forward. We must work to make this a full reform and, especially, so that it will include all the sectors of national life. We want a total electoral reform, said Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon, and in the coming months we must have a dialogue and search as much as we can, in consensus, and also attack our differences. We must try to convince ourselves that we can achieve an electoral reform by 1997 and, if possible, before that.

[Begin Zedillo recording] It is necessary to promote the reformation of local electoral laws from now, among all of us, because those laws must not fall behind. If we fail to do this, conflicts over local elections will continue to be sources of disputes that foster governments of questionable legitimacy, divide Mexicans and, in the end, constitute an invitation to use other means that could lead to violence, which resolves nothing, is advantageous to no one, and which further complicates coexistence and social peace.

I insist that a true electoral reform should contemplate, among other things, the necessary supression of the government party to make way for an authentic party system, guarantee the impartiality of the members of the electoral bodies, establish a reasonable ceiling of campaign expenses, provide equal access to the news media, and establish punishments for electoral crimes. [end recording]

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon has spoken clearly. The Congress of the Union should be the foundation from which this new electoral reform emerges. The reform must come from the Congress of the Union, which is the house of dialogue, the house in which electoral consensus must be sought.

[Begin Zedillo recording] I would like to propose, ladies and gentlemen deputies, that the forum to discuss that definitive electoral reform be precisely the Congress of the Union. One legislator spoke here about dark political agreements, agreements which sometimes are hierarchical; agreements among party hierarchies or government hierarchies and certain political forces. I believe that for a political reform to effectively lead to an authentic democracy, it must be done before the nation and if this is true, the political reform must be conducted here at the Chamber of Deputies and at the Senate of the Republic. The executive will be awaiting your proposals. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Javier Gonzalez said he welcomed President Zedillo Ponce De Leon's visit because the PRD promoted this meeting. Acknowledging that millions of Mexicans are immersed in extreme poverty, he said: We do not want more words, we do not want more wealthy people.

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Gonzalez spoke of the conflicts in the country. He said that before anything else, they must be resolved.

Ernesto Zedillo answered by asking several questions, one of them specifically addressed to a reporter to whom he said the following:

[Begin Zedillo recording] The executive will be waiting for the opportunity to hold a dialogue to reach pertinent agreements. [end recording]

Opening the dialogue President Zedillo is calling for is based on a proposal by PRD member Juan Guerra, who called for clear and specific solutions for the postelectoral conflicts in Veracruz, Chiapas, and Tabasco.

[Begin Guerra recording] Today there are political, economic, and social conflicts that cannot wait. Today we have no more time. We cannot tell the people of Chiapas, Tabasco, or Veracruz to wait until it is possible to build the process that we are all determined to fulfill. No. It should be the other way around. The solution of those conflicts should be a requirement and a fundamental part of the process itself. [end recording]

Although President Zedillo said that the solution of these conflicts should be based on dialogue and reason, he called most of all for respect for the Constitution because, he said, no conflict can be resolved ooutside the law.

[Begin Zedillo recording] All of us are currently affected by certain conflicts. You have spoken of postelectoral conflicts in certain states of the republic, which forces me to insist on the need to go after a definitive electoral reform. I can assure you that the federal government will not give up the role it must play in the solution of those conflicts; and it will do so observing respect for the Constitution, laws, and state sovereignty. We will do our part... [pauses] we will do our part to resolve these conflicts. However, I must respectfully inform you, Mr. Deputy, that we cannot resolve alleged abuses by perpetrating other abuses. [applause].

[Words indistinct] dialogue and the spirit of reconciliation to make respect for the law compatible with the political solution of problems and controversies that are still out there. I am sure that with goodwill, objectivity, and a desire to resolve problems, we will find solutions. [end recording]

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon told the legislators that whenever they deem it proper, any member of his cabinet will come to the Chamber of Deputies to answer any questions the legislators may have.

Regarding the Chiapas case, he made specific assertions. He said that there can be no solution outside the Constitution. Most of all, he said, we must create a climate of harmony, and he added: My resolve for my administration to participate in productive dialogue cannot be rejected. Above all, we will try to make that dialogue take place as soon as possible because above all else, he told the legislators, we must seek peace and peace must be based on a (?de jure) state and (?respect for the Constitution).

To conclude, Zedillo said that at this time, we should build a Mexico that is more democratic, more responsible and, especially, more committed to democratic and especially electoral processes. Thus, he said, we must settle our differences at a negotiations table, at a dialogue table based on this meeting, this first meeting which, above all, will give the legislators the foundation upon which to achieve a more democratic relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

Senators React to Zedillo Proposal for Justice Reform

PA0812164794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Escovedo; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Escovedo] There has been significant reaction in the Senate to President Ernesto Zedillo's announcements on reforms of the national judicial structure. Senators from the National Action Party [PAN] and the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] have said that although the initiative alone cannot solve the corruption problem, the bill for reform of the justice and security system that Zedillo has sent to Congress is one of the most important steps in the last 20 years. Representatives of the three major parties at the Senate—PAN, PRD, and Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]—expressed their support for the president's initiative. The Senate welcomed the draft bill during its regular plenary session this past Tuesday.

PRI Senator Angel Sergio Guerrero said the bill's main issues were strengthening the judicial branch through stricter procedures for appointing its ministers, creation of a judiciary council, and Senate confirmation of the attorney general. The senator also highlighted the fact that the initiative establishes channels for the common citizen to defend himself or herself from negligence, carelessness, or corruption by the Attorney General's Office. Among other things he noted the constitutional mandate calling for extensive transformation of the police force.

Guillermo Del Rio, the PRD's assistant coordinator in the Senate, called the initiative a magnificent move and expressed his full support.

[Begin Del Rio recording] Magnificent. It is the first step in the right direction. We thought the president was going to wait a few months before presenting it, but we were positively surprised when he presented the proposal to the nation yesterday. We will give the initiative our full support. [end recording]

Senator Juan de Dios Castro, the chairman of the Senate's Justice Committee, said that his team will study

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in depth the main issues in Ernesto Zedillo's proposal. He said that this is one of the most important moves in the last 20 years, as it addresses structural issues. But the PAN senator said that the decision to send the proposal to the Senate floor would probably come during the next congress. He pointed out that the law itself cannot solve the problem of judicial corruption.

[Begin Castro recording] I do not believe anyone can come up with the solution of a law that in and of itself will end corruption. Our struggle should not be to make corruption disappear, and effort which in my opinion is totally impossible, but to turn it into the exception instead of the rule. [end recording]

Meanwhile, after meeting yesterday with Attorney General Antonio Lozano, PRI Senator Angel Sergio Guerrero Mier announced that he will continue in the Office of the Special Assistant Prosecutor in charge of the Colosio case. Guerrero, coordinator of the Senate's Plural Group, said that thus far [words indistinct] Dr. Olga Islas, but that the person who takes over will be supported by a team of first-rate criminology experts until Luis Donaldo Colosio's assassination is resolved.

PGR Arrests Alleged Matamoros Cartel 'Strong Arm'

PA0812214694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0233 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 6 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Attorney General's Offce [PGR] reported today that the alleged "strong arm" of the Matamoros drug cartel was arrested and charged with drug contraband. He was also arrested because of a U.S. extradition request.

The PGR announced that Javier Hernandez Rivera or Rivera Hernandez, alias "El Chato" or "El Tigre," is the alleged "strong arm" of the Matamoros or Gulf Cartel, which is headed by Juan Garcia Abrego, a U.S. citizen of Mexican origin.

"El Chato's" arrest took place in Zapopan, in the western state of Jalisco, the PGR stated without specifying the date. The PGR added that "El Chato" faces charges of crimes against the public health and a U.S. request for extradition.

An arrest warrant was issued on 1 July 1993 by a Texas southern district court judge, for cocaine possession and for conspiring to distribute it, the PGR said.

The PGR added that the suspect, due to his probable links to the Matamoros Cartel, faces in Mexico charges of crimes against the public health.

The PGR said that it seized from the suspect a 9-mm pistol, a radio transmitter, and a Presidential Infantry Staff badge in his name with the rank of lieutenant.

The authorities took legal actions against the alleged drug trafficker for carrying a firearm of exclusive use by the Army, for usurpation of duty, and for posing as an Army officer, the PGR announced.

The PGR said that his arrest serves to reaffirm the conviction of continuing with the investigations that lead to dimantling the Matamoros Cartel, which bears the name of that city in Tamaulipas State, opposite the border city of Brownsville, Texas,

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El Salvador

President Says Cuba's Exclusion From Summit Appropriate

PA0812173094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1539 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (DPA)—Shortly before departure, on board a commercial flight bound for Miami, with Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria and other officials, Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol said today Cuba's exclusion from the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami 9-11 December, is appropriate. Calderon Sol said that this is not the forum in which Cuba should participate and that its proper setting should be at the OAS.

Calderon Sol recalled that Cuba has posed a threat to Central America during past decades. "We believe this threat is a thing of the past, however. We expect democratization in Cuba. In addition, we should offer our solidarity to the Cuban people," he said, adding Cuba should not attend this summit due to the nature of the subjects to be discussed, in particular economic issues. "We expect Cuba will not remain isolated in the future, when it incorporates itself into its proper forum," he said.

Regarding El Salvador's presence in the summit, Calderon Sol reiterated Central America will make itself heard as a bloc. He expressed the hope something specific will come out of this meeting regarding free trade, investment, and other aspects the subregion must control to overcome its underdevelopment.

Wants Discussion of Immigration

PA0812212594 San Salvador Canal Code Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Armando Calderon Sol traveled this morning to Miami to participate in the Summit of the Americas, convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton. The Salvadoran president said that the immigration issue is on the agenda he is presenting.

[Begin recording] [Calderon Sol] I believe that the diplomatic victory the Salvadoran Government and the Salvadoran people have achieved is very clear. It is an exemption, it is an extension. If he [not further identified] wants to make this a problem of semantics, he can call it an exemption instead of an extension. The truth is that we have until 30 September 1995. I do not know what he understands by that. However, I do believe that there is calm and peace for the Salvadoran family. We have obtained an extension, or postponement, whatever he wants to call this, and we have received assurances from the U.S. Government that there will not be massive deportations. Besides, we have time to study other alternatives, other changes of immigrantion status, because there are aspects other than the political asylum one that have to be taken into consideration. There are other types of immigrantion that perhaps Mr. [words indistinct] does not know of.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] at the North American summit?

[Calderon Sol] We are going to bring this up. I believe that the immigrant issue is on the agenda or we will put it on the private or public agenda. This is a vital issue, it is an issue of vital importance for us as it is the human problem of our people, therefore we must deal with this. As officials, as heads of state, we are under the obligation to deal with this issue. We will deal with this issue with all our power in defense of our compatriots, in defense of the Salvadoran family. [end recording]

Guatemala

President To Travel to Miami Summit

PA0812160694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0929 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Guatemala City—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio will travel to Miami today to participate in the Summit of the Americas scheduled for this weekend. The situation of democracy on the continent will be discussed at the summit.

A source for the presidential office has said the president will leave La Aurora Military Airport for Miami at approximately 0900 with a small retinue.

The president was ironing out details of his trip and the topics he will discuss with his hemispheric colleagues, except for Cuban President Fidel Castro who was not invited to the summit.

Guatemala will take up the project of the "Alliance for Sustainable Development," which is considered fundamental in the growth programs of Central American countries according to the official source. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Chamorro To Discuss Proposition 187 With Clinton

PA0812190094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1618 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Managua, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro will discuss during bilateral meetings with President Bill Clinton Proposition 187, which affects thousands of illegal immigrants in California.

Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sources reported today there is concern in Nicaragua and all of Latin America

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over the promulgation of laws of this type, which violate the human rights of Nicaraguans who live in certain U.S. states.

Chamorro will fly to Miami tomorrow for the Summit of the Americas, scheduled to open the same day, where Chamorro will meet with Clinton at an unspecified time.

In addition, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal reported Chamorro addressed a letter to President Clinton on 6 December requesting that Nicaraguans living in the United States be given an extension of their stay and be spared mass deportation. "As we said earlier, our country's social and services infrastructure is not prepared to receive at the same time all of the Nicaraguans living abroad," Leal said. Chamorro will also discuss this issue with President Clinton.

Most of the Nicaraguans, in unspecified numbers, are in California, where they arrived several decades ago, but many of them have already obtained resident status. Approximately 70,000 Nicaraguans face immigration problems in California according to Leal, and another 100,000 live in Florida. Leal explained the Nicaraguan Government has no reports as of yet on U.S. Government plans to deport Nicaraguans en masse. "President Chamorro will discuss the matter with President Clinton, because the concern is there," Leal said.

Regarding the so-called Proposition 187, the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, John Maisto, said on 6 December the "controversial proposal" will be heard by the California judicial system and the U.S. Supreme Court. He recalled a similar legislation was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court 20 years ago. "Let's see what happens. One should not predict what court rulings will be," Maisto said, adding he opposes the law personally speaking. He said there are 3,500,000 illegal immigrants in the United States, a situation which poses a problem, because "they are violators of the law."

"I believe the illegals should be treated humanely, but something should be done at the same time to enforce the law," Maisto concluded, adding that more than one million illegals legalized their immigrant status last year.

Panama

Group of Cuban Rafters Stages Protest in Camp No. 1

PA0812165594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Dec 94 p A-2

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban sources have disclosed a group of Cuban rafters housed at Camp No. 1 staged a violent protest march yesterday during which they were able to take control of three military vehicles and crash them as well as to throw rocks at the soldiers.

Cuban rafter Antonio Giovanni told LA PRENSA the protest began yesterday at 4:00 in the afternoon and ended at 7:30 in the evening.

The Cubans insisted the U.S. Army has been "misleading" them, because, according to Giovanni, "we are told one day the children will be sent to the United States, and we are told something different the next day."

The protesters were able to smash part of the wire fence encircling Camp No. 1, and several rafters overtook three Army vehicles and crashed them against a vehicle owned by Niko's Cafe, the company responsible for supplying food to the rafters.

"The riot squad showed up at the camp but was received with rocks, and several soldiers were hit in their heads and legs," Giovanni reported.

The rafter said no arrests were made nor were there any serious casualties. It was reported the soldiers had detained three rafters but released them afterward.

Liliana Levy-Dutram, spokesperson for the Joint Task Force's "Safe Haven," confirmed to LA PRENSA that two armored vehicles and a car belonging to Niko's Cafe had been damaged.

It was reported everything would seem to indicate the vehicles became targets of the rafters' "frustrations." The rafters are demanding information with about their status, and the protest was not aimed at escaping but, rather, to have their concerns heard. The rafters were restless about the scheduled trip by one group to Spain.

General Jim Wilson, commander of the Joint Task Force's "Safe Haven," showed up at the camp where he met with U.S. Embassy representatives, the camp commander, Jim Greenwood, and a delegation of five Cuban rafters.

The U.S. Southern Command has stated no casualties, escapes, or arrests had been reported up to 8:40 in the evening

Police Set Up Roadblocks

PA0912001094 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Omaira De Leon de Watson; from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite U.S. denials on the alleged escape of Cuban rafters from their camps in the Canal area, there was extensive police activity today in the area of the Pan-American Highway that is near the camps. National Police personnel set up several roadblocks and requested that passers-by present their identification papers to check their nationality. All drivers are asked to show their personal identification card and people who do not have it are taken to the Arraijan Police Station.

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This situation has caused a serious traffic jam, although the police is telling people the reason for the measures. We talked with Captain Hector Correa to obtain more details on the measures. He said:

[Begin recording] [Correa] Well, at this time, we are giving support to the Arraijan detachment's efforts to find several people who have allegedly escaped from the camp area.

[Unidentified Reporter] What is the situation right now? Have you arrested anyone?

[Correa] No one has been arrested up to now. We have arrested several people for further investigation because they seemed to be foreigners. However, we have not accomplished anything yet.

[Reporter] Are they being investigated?

[Correa] Right. We are investigating their documents. [end recording]

As we reported, several people who did not have identification documents were taken to the Arraijan Police Station.

Public Security Council on Alert

PA0912010994 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Julia Elena Alvear; from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Conasepuden [Council for Public Security and National Defense] has gone on national alert and is assessing the situation caused by the mass Cuban escape. It is establishing an operating area near the banks of the Panama Canal and in Arraijan and Panama City. Conasepuden Executive Secretary Jose Luis Sosa told "Telemetro Reports" that Panama is doing its share by helping in the capture, although responsibility remains in the hands of the United States. The problem of the Cubans housed in the camps is reaching a boiling point.

[Begin recording] [Sosa] As you can see, the Conasepuden is here. What we are doing, what the Panamanian Government is doing, is, let us say, helping those people return to the camps. That is what we are doing. At this time, where we are, you know there is a large number of ...

[Alvear, interrupting] How many, 600?

[Sosa] There are not 600 right here in this place, but there are in other places. That information...[pauses] yes, many more. [end recording]

The National Police force has detained over 30 rafters who swam the Canal. In these exclusive shots filmed by "Telemetro Reports," we can see that several roadblocks are being set up along the Canal's main highway. We can also see Southern Command troops rounding up the few Cubans who escaped the camps. Conasepuden, which is made up of the National Air Service, the National Marine Service, the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], the Panamanian Firemen Corps, and the National Police force, are conducting a joint operation all over the city.

[Begin National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez recording] The purpose of this operation is to keep the Cuban refugees in their camps. We must detain the Cubans who left the camps and are trying to reach the capital city and send them back to the camps, since that is the agreement between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments.

[Alvear] What is the official number of escaped Cubans?

[Fernandez] That is an interesting question. There is no official figure. [end recording]

Government and Justice Minister Raul Montenegro said coordination and the state of alert are being maintained.

[Begin recording] [Alvear] What is the situation, basically? How would you describe it?

[Montenegro] Panamanian authorities are taking all steps within our power to enforce strict compliance with the agreement so that at no time can the people in those camps escape. [end recording]

At this time, the Cuban situation is capturing the attention of the national government in view of the commitments made with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Sosa] This is an agreement between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments, but the United States, not Panama, has control over the camps.

[Alvear] How does Panama view this situation? It seems the problem of the Cuban camp is reaching a boiling point.

[Sosa] We have always said that one had to be very careful regarding the situation in the camps. We have been saying this for months. I think the time has come to give them hope, at the very least. [end recording]

The roadblocks and the joint operations are still in place for the time being.

Police Head, Presidential Advisor Comment

PA0812232894 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "The Five O'Clock News Minute"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 1,000 Cuban rafters staged serious disturbances at Camp 1 of Operation Safe Haven, leaving over 60 U.S. soldiers and an unspecified number of rafters injured. The situation became tense and disturbances broke out in Camp 1, a Southern Command spokesman reported. The Cubans who were involved in the melee tore down fences and

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headed for nearby areas. Some of them returned voluntarily. The Southern Command responded by beefing up the contingent of soldiers guarding the camp, and several U.S. helicopters are patrolling the area in search of the Cubans who escaped. National Police agents are also participating in the operation. Here is what some of the Cubans captured by the Panamanian Police had to say:

[Begin recording] [First unidentified Cuban speaker] We are tired of being held prisoner. We want political asylum. We want freedom. To be frank, everybody comes here and deceives us.

[Second unidentified Cuban speaker] [Words indistinct]

[First Cuban speaker] We want freedom. We want to live and join society. We have a large number of doctors and engineers. We are not common criminals.

[Unidentified reporter] If you are taken back to the camp, will you [word indistinct]?

[Several unidentified Cubans speakers at once] No. [Words indistinct]

[Third unidentified Cuban speaker] They burned down Camp 1. They will burn down the others just the same.

[Reporter] Did Camp 1 burn down?

[Several unidentified Cuban speakers at once] Yes.

[Fourth unidentified Cuban speaker] We set it on fire.

[Reporter] You set it on fire?

[Several unidentified Cuban speakers at once] Yes, [words indistinct].

[Fourth Cuban speaker] [Words indistinct] and set fire to it.

[Reporter] Did they shoot at any time?

[Several unidentified Cuban speakers at once] No. [passage indistinct]

[Fourth Cuban speaker] We were going in groups. One started to yell [passage indistinct].

[Fifth unidentified Cuban speaker] It seems the uncertainty [words indistinct], and I would say: Go easy! Go easy! I was going [words indistinct] but you can imagine [passage indistinct] it got out of our hands. We do not know the extent of the damage [passage indistinct]

[Sixth unidentified Cuban speaker] We learned from experience in Guantanamo that when this happened, the persons who were left behind were later accused [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Were you aware that a gringo, a U.S. soldier was killed?

[Several unidentified Cuban speakers at once] No. No. [passage indistinct]

[Seventh unidentified Cuban speaker] Cubans and U.S. soldiers were wounded, but no one was killed.

[Eighth unidentified Cuban speaker] I prefer life in prison in Panama than to return to the U.S. camp.

[Ninth unidentified Cuban speaker] Enough.

[Eighth Cuban speaker] True, I do not want to. I cannot take it [words indistinct] [end recording]

National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez had this to say:

[Being Fernandez recording, in progress] ...after taking a head count, how many people fled and how many were recaptured. What is important is that we are meeting our responsibility, the responsibility of the Panamanian side; that is, we must guarantee our citizens that the city will not be invaded, especially today [Mother's Day in Panama], by a group persons who, regardless of the reasons which prompted them to escape, are violating an agreement to which the Panamanian Government is a party. [end recording]

Later, the Council for Public Security and National Defense [Conasepuden] met at the National Police building. Presidential Adviser Jose Sosa said:

[Begin Sosa recording] What we are doing, what the Panamanian Government is doing, is, let us say, helping those people return to the camps. That is what we are doing. At this time, where we are, you know there is a large number...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] How many, 600?

[Sosa] There are not 600 right here in this place, but there are in other places. That information...[pauses] yes, many more. We do not know the exact figure. We hope things will return to normal in a few hours. [end recording]

Meanwhile, at Gorgas Hospital in the reverted areas, ambulances continue to bring in soldiers injured in the melee that Cuban the rafters started in Camp 1 of Operation Safe Haven.

Head of Cuban Refugees Association on Departure for Madrid

PA0812193794 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Spanish Government has accepted 72 Cuban rafters, men, women, and children, who departed this morning at 0300 for Madrid, where they will be met by relatives who have claimed them and Spanish authorities. Meanwhile, (Asdrubal Canet Camejo), who chaired the Association of Cuban Refugees up to the time of his departure, has expressed this thanks for the way he was received in Panama by making an appeal to his brother rafters:

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[Begin Camejo recording] A group of us is about to leave for Spain. I simply want to express my thanks. I believe all Cubans who are here in Panama should express their thanks for what they have done for us. They have practically saved our lives, and we are now saying we are grateful for this gesture.

In another turn of events, some disturbing situations have taken place in Camps No. 1 and No. 2. I hope my brothers and compatriots understand that our departure to third nations or the United States is not the solution; on the contrary, this departure is being put at stake. [end recording]

Camejo added there are Castro agents present in the Safe Haven camps:

[Begin Camejo recording] For example, things are happening in the camps that confirm this element. Slogans are appearing on the bathroom walls, the faucets are being defaced, sabotage is taking place, actions which are simply the works of instigators, of individuals who are Castro agents, simply Castroists. This type of provocation is apparently fostered by them. Many people have participated in these incidents, people who are probably easygoing, but they are people in despair. Those incidents are induced by Castro agents who have infiltrated those camps. [end recording]

Panama Accedes to Inter-American Penal Convention

PA0812163594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 15A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 December at the OAS, Panama signed the Inter-American Convention for the Fulfillment of Penal Sentences Abroad, thus becoming the fourth American country to sign that document, according to sources in this continental organization.

Lawrence Chewning, Panama's permanent representative to the OAS, signed the convention in the presence of OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria during a ceremony at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Chewning said: "Panama signed this legal agreement encouraged by its government's desire to cooperate with the compliance with (strengthening) a better administration of justice through the social rehabilitation of the individual who has been sentenced."

He added that in order to meet this objective, it is advisable that the sentenced person be able to serve his term in prison in his country of origin.

The administration of Ernesto Perez Balladares deems significant anything that has to do with complying with and respecting human rights, which it considers an essential principle and necessary foundation for consolidating democratic institutions, Chewning pointed out.

Panama became the fourth American country to sign this document, which was approved by the OAS General Assembly in 1993. OAS sources indicated that Canada, Costa Rica, and Venezuela have already signed this convention.

Gaviria congratulated the Panamanian people and government, asserting that this act constitutes another contribution by this country to the development of inter-American law and an sterling event for our hemispheric community.

The OAS leader emphasized that the convention's main objective is helping manage justice and international penal cooperation through a modern mechanism into which the many existing bilateral agreements on the subject could be integrated.

Opposition Parties Refuse To Sign Bambito III Agreements

PA0812145594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 1A

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives from opposition political parties have refused to sign the Bambito III agreements, because they disagree with the possible reforms to the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) Law.

High-ranking government officials and the many national organized sectors yesterday signed a pact called "Commitment for Development," as they concluded their speeches at the Bambito III meeting, which was entitled "Human Unity and Development" and was organized by the UN Development Program (UNDP).

Former President Guillermo Endara, on behalf of the Arnulfist Party, reported that the opposition insists on leaving the ARI Law as it is, which would prevent the executive branch from meddling in the institution.

As they presented their conclusions, the participants maintained that it is necessary to continue the process of holding talks through the creation of a permanent development consensus forum, which will have legal validity if the participants deem it convenient.

Participants will attend this forum voluntarily to hold talks on and debate the arrival at a consensus on national issues discussed in Bambito and other issues that may come up later.

President Ernesto Perez Balladares, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Colombian President Belisario Bethancourt, former Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, representatives of the private sector, union members, politicians, academicians, and representatives of the Catholic Church attended the Bambito meeting.

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The pact contemplates the commitment made by the government, the private sector, and the unions to join efforts to make the principles of a socioeconomic and political democracy effective. This democracy would be based on respect for private investments and individual and social rights, as well as on a solidary state's obligations toward the neediest people and responsibility for social equality.

The 19 commitments made by the government could be summarized as a pledge to consult with the principal sectors of Panamanian society on "a model to foster sustainable development and jump start the economy".

In addition, the pact includes formulas that will guarantee spending levels and social investment in education, health, housing, and environmental protection, as well as in their efficient use and fair and equitable distribution.

The pact stresses that the distribution of state spending will prioritize those projects of social interest, current spending, and foreign debt.

As far as education is concerned, the government is willing to reach a consensus with the rank and file to design a new educational system that will prepare Panamanians for the challenges of the future. On agriculture, the government is willing to search for mechanisms to support the agricultural sector and its businesses that will be threatened by the commercial opening policies through flexible protection systems.

As for the private sector, legal security will be guaranteed by setting clear and stable rules. On social security, an external audit of the Social Security Fund [CSS] will be allowed under the supervision of the Labor Foundation. This audit will allow workers and employers to learn about the CSS's financial status.

Another commitment is to accept and include the participation of workers and employers in the Advising Commission of the Commerce and Industries Ministry in an effort to make Panama join the GATT. Moreover, the government will reach a consensus on the mechanisms to include the benefits stemming from the reductions in public services bills in the system of prices so that the purchasing power of salaries and international competitiveness will increase.

The labor sector pledged to promote, along with the business sector, an attitude aimed at achieving increased work and capital production, thereby allowing businesses to offer better prices on the local market and to be competitive internationally.

Meanwhile, the unions committed themselves to participate, along with businessmen and the government, in the commissions in charge of revising and modernizing the labor and social laws according to the principles and objectives of the equitable development encouraged by the Labor Foundation.

President Perez Balladares and Ministers Guillermo Chapman, Mitchell Doens, and Gabriel Lewis Galindo signed the document on behalf of the government. Eduardo Vallarino, Victoria Figge, Ricardo Duran, Ricardo Ortega, Luis Barraza De Freitas, and Juan Planells signed the document on behalf of the employers.

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Argentina

Joint Exercises Conducted With Brazilian Navy

PY0912003394 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0218 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine Navy general staff has reported that the Argentine and Brazilian Navies are carrying out exercises, within the "Araex II" Joint Operation, from 7 to 10 December.

The ARA [Argentine Navy] frigate "Spiro" and Naval Aviation units from the 2d Naval Aviation Force, headquartered in the Comandante Espora base, are representing the Argentine Navy in this second operation. The aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais" and destroyer "Rio Grande do Norte" are representing the Brazilian Navy.

Day and night landings and takeoffs on the aircraft carrier "Minas Gerais" will be carried out during the operation, thus improving the preparedness of pilots and signalmen.

Bolivia

President Leaves for Miami Summit

PY0812155894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1305 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 8 Dec (EFE)—Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada left La Paz at 0800 [1200 GMT] this morning for Miami to participate in the hemispheric summit that will begin tomorrow.

The Bolivian president, who boarded a commercial airline plane, left accompanied by his wife Ximena Iturralde and an official delegation.

The delegation is made up of Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar, Sustainable Development Minister Jose Guillermo Justiniano, Bolivian Ambassador to Washington Andres Petrocevic, Ambassador to the OAS Carlos Cassap, Foreign Relations Secretary Jaime Aparicio, and Economic Relations Secretary Mario Reyes.

UCS Leader Accuses President of Tax Evasion

PY0812150294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Max Fernandez today accused President Sanchez de Lozada of being one of the greatest tax evaders in the country. Fernandez, a former ally of the government, is campaigning against tax evasion.

[Begin Fernandez recording] I want to ask what company is facing this situation, and facing charges of evading taxes. That is the question I want to ask. [end recording]

Max Fernandez and the board of directors of the National Bolivian Beer Company, CBN, have reported that CBN has become an object of persecution, and tax officials have been making, quote, slanderous comments, unquote, about his company. A 34-million-boliviano tax payment sheet has been sent to that company, but CBN officials said that legally and technically this tax payment is unfounded.

CBN officials have stated in a document: We are going to prove that these charges are false. The truth is that CBN is fighting a very tough legal war against the executive branch.

[Begin Fernandez recording] I am really upset. We are not going to allow this to happen again in our company. We must be alert at all times, because if we are not respected, especially myself, we are going to make this known to the people, because there are many evaders, beginning with the president of the Republic. There are many mining companies, the medium-sized companies, which are considered the largest in the country, that must be investigated to verify what they are doing now. Let us also consider and review what the other companies in the forestry area are doing. I am going to review them myself. It is not my duty, but I will provide all the information necessary, because somebody must put an end to all this. This type of blackmail is only damaging one company, which is not only a national, but an international company. [end recording]

The CBN board, following Max Fernandez' tone of voice, made a strong warning that it would no longer accept this type of blackmail or accusations that seek to tarnish the national and international prestige of the beer company. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Criticize 'Indecision' on Military Law

PY0712145194 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p A9

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 30 Nov (LOS TIEMPOS)—Military sources from larger and smaller units of the Bolivian Air Force, Army, and Navy have revealed that the postponement until next year of the approval of the rule establishing the implementation of the Armed Forces Organizational Law, and President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's indecision in ordering either the relief or ratification of those in the top military command, have prompted reactions of "anxiety, skepticism, and annoyance."

Military sources have reported in this capital that almost three months after President Sanchez de Lozada's announcement that "changes within the Armed Forces" would soon be made, nothing has been learned so far at the institution. On the contrary, things remain under a state of "uncertainty," as no one knows for sure what the fate of the top military command will be, nor what promotions to command posts might be aspired to within the institution in 1995.

Although not officially confirmed, Defense Minister Raul Tovar Pierola reported a few days ago that the

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approval of the rule establishing the implementation of the Armed Forces Organizational Law has been postponed until next year, and that the relief of the top military command is uncertain.

Referring to the rule that will establish the implementation of the Armed Forces Organizational Law, which will provide for the extension of the years of active service within the institution from 30 to 35 years, Minister Tovar said: "I believe it will be implemented in approximately 60 days. It will demand very tough work. It is not a document that can be considered rapidly."

The defense minister added that the issue related to the creation and reorganization of the new top military command "has not yet been considered by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada" and that its treatment is conditioned to the decision the president will make on the matter "when he deems it necessary and appropriate."

Tovar explained that while there are some subjects that concern (institutional) reality, others have to do with the very existence of the Armed Forces. He added that "the government is taking the necessary time to make a rigorous, responsible, and serious study" of the proposals that the top military command members are preparing on the Organizational Law.

The positive and negative points of the draft rules must be considered "before making a decision on their implementation," through which the extension of the active professional service within the Armed Forces from 30 to 35 years would be authorized as of 1994 or 1995, the defense minister said.

The defense minister added: "Fortunately, we do have a (Armed Forces Organizational) law, on the basis of which we will act and implement the changes the Armed Forces require, the transformations and orders that seek the best interests of the members of the military institution."

He urged the active members of the military institution to respect the order given by Captain General of the Armed Forces Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and the top military command, because "everything will be done with respect for the current Bolivian legal order."

The president of the Republic and the captain general of the Armed Forces, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, must consider three draft rules for the implementation of the Armed Forces Organizational Law, prepared by the top military command of the Republic.

The draft rules that the members of the top command will explain to President Sanchez de Lozada at Government Palace, to which end "they are still waiting for an official call to a meeting," are: "Implementation of the 1994 Rule; Implementation of the Armed Forces Organizational Law in the year 2012; and the systematic implementation of the normative provisions."

General Carlos Macias Klarjevic, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, reported a few days ago that the rule that will establish the implementation of the Organizational Law seeks the "best benefits for the military institution."

Official Says Institutions Laundering Money

PY0612231694 La Paz HOY in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] ANF—Interior Under Secretary Hugo San Martin has said the Government Ministry has information that some national institutions are laundering money. He made this comment after an international meeting in Italy on the creation of mechanisms to fight international organized crime.

The comment was made during a news conference just as part of the population is uncertain following the recent liquidation of two private banks, which caused a rush on other banks to withdraw deposits.

Bank Superintendent Ramiro Cabezas said recently there are no signs of "laundering dollars" from illegal activities such as drug trafficking in the private banking system.

He noted that the Bolivian banking system is not attractive, despite the lack of money control that could facilitate operations. He recalled that bank secrecy in Bolivia cannot be violated, except on an explicit court order.

San Martin said weak legal institutions are "an easy target for international organized crime" in any country. He said Bolivia is a victim of that crime through drug trafficking, arms trafficking, traffic of minors, money laundering, illegal immigrants, and clandestine prostitution.

"Organized crime is beginning to enter our society," warned San Martin, but he noted that the country can still strictly control these criminal activities by implementing preventive measures.

"So far the police have been effective in stopping the influence of international criminal organizations," said San Martin, adding that the strengthening of preventive measures through a juridical study may be financed by the United Nations.

MNR Wants MIR Members Tried for Drug Links

PY0812141094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The FIDES news agency has released a very relevant report concerning the well-known and much-ballyhooed narco-links case.

The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] said today that MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] members involved in the narco-links case must be tried through Law 1008 since the accusations are linked to drug trafficking.

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The resolution in this case was approved at noon today by decision of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, in his role as head of the party, and by the National MNR executive committee, following a thorough analysis of the case. The resolution states, however, that this does not mean that the accused will be either set free or sentenced, as it only establishes that a trial is appropriate.

Why is this particularly sensitive? Because one of the accused, current acting MIR leader Oscar Eid Franco, who cannot be impeached because he does not hold any state post, finds himself in this simple situation: If he is to be tried by Law 1008, he must automatically be arrested, because the accusations were made by the Special Antinarcotics Force. It is that simple. Law 1008 clearly establishes this procedure, and Oscar Eid Franco can be sent to jail.

The other people who have been accused or are under investigation are in different situations. As you know, former President Jaime Paz Zamora would be impeached, as would Prefect Rolando Arostegui. This means that in this situation, Oscar Eid Franco is directly affected.

Brazil

Official Sees Trade as 'Main Issue' at Summit

PY0812135894 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The main outcome of the Summit of the Americas, which will be held next week in Miami, will be all the member countries' decision to immediately begin working to establish a free trade area covering the entire continent. Here is Carlos Alberto's report for our newscast:

[Begin recording] [Carlos Alberto] An event as large as the one to be held in Miami from 9 to 11 December has not been held for almost 30 years. The summit will be attended by representatives from 34 countries. Ambassador Roberto Abdenur, Foreign Ministry executive secretary, believes that the Summit of the Americas will yield economic and political results of great impact:

[Abdenur] Miami will draft a political declaration focused on our countries' common support for the fundamental values of democracy, respect for human rights, political pluralism, market economy, and economic openness, and will emphasize the need to give priority to the social problems being faced by our countries.

[Carlos Alberto] Ambassador Abdenur commented on the issues to be announced in Miami:

[Abdenur] The main issue will be the decision by all the countries involved to immediately begin working toward making a continental free trade area in the Americas a reality.

[Carlos Alberto] During the summit, an action plan will also be drafted. It will offer advances in the field of development and improved social conditions for all countries of the region. This is Carlos Alberto, for the "Jornal Nacional" newscast. [end recording]

A free trade area covering the entire American continent may come into operation in 2005. The free trade area will be the main issue under discussion at the Summit of the Americas. The summit will begin in Miami tomorrow and will end on Sunday.

Ambassador Abdenur has reported that the technical work in preparation for the implementation of the new common market will probably begin in January. Abdenur also reported that the two main documents to be signed by the presidents of the 34 countries that will participate in the summit are ready. The documents emphasize the strengthening of democracy, the need to achieve common prosperity leading to integration, and the fight against poverty. The document also emphasizes the importance of ensuring sustainable development in the region.

President Itamar Franco and President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso will attend the Summit of the Americas.

Commentator Views 'Grandiose' Goals at Summit

PY0812212094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1702 GMT 8 Dec 94

[By Valdimir Goitia]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sao Paulo, 8 Dec (AE)—The Summit of the Americas will open tomorrow (9 December) in Miami with 34 heads of state and government—22 presidents and 12 prime ministers, two of them women—in attendance. Only Cuban President Fidel Castro has not been invited to attend the "historic" meeting, during which two documents—a Plan of Action and Declaration of Principles—will be signed. Among other things, these documents address issues such as association for development and progress, democracy, free trade, and sustainable development.

The chapter that is likely to take more discussion time is, however, the one dealing with poverty and discrimination in the hemisphere. The Declaration of Principles says: "It is politically intolerable and morally unacceptable for some segments of our population to be living in poverty."

The documents to be signed during the three-day summit also include some ambitious, grandiose goals that had not been raised since 1824, when Simon Bolivar attempted to promote the unity of the hemisphere by calling the Panama Congress. The last unsuccessful attempt to promote integration in the hemisphere dates back to 1967, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. That meeting

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produced a declaration designating 1970 as the deadline for establishing a common market that was to go into effect in 1985.

One of the most ambitious subjects—the creation of a free trade zone, which in recent months became the main topic of interest for South American countries and one that should be included in the summit agenda—is, however, no longer unanimously endorsed by all participants.

Speaking at a forum on the prospects of the summit, Brazilian Ambassador in Washington Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima recently said that such ambitious objectives are usually bound to not materialize. He said: "History shows that grandiose projects are not likely to ever be implemented."

Flecha de Lima said that Brazil would rather look at this question cautiously. He added that the Brazilian priority at this time is Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. In his opinion, the establishment of a free trade zone in the hemisphere is a long-term objective and thus, Brazil would rather not discuss specific dates or procedures designed to expedite negotiations for economic integration.

A senior Latin American diplomatic official at the OAS vigorously criticized the Brazilian position. Flecha de Lima's remarks contradicted the position of Argentina, which is also a member of Mercosur. Argentine Ambassador in Washington Raul Granillo has stated that the Menem administration would like to set the year 2000 as a deadline for concluding negotations about economic integration and the year 2015 as a deadline for establishing a free trade zone in the Americas.

Barriers

The Western Hemisphere Free Trade Agreement (Whafta)—as the future economic bloc is already being called—would require, however, the liberalization of services, which currently accounts for more than half of economic activities in the hemisphere; the creation of mechanisms for settling trade disputes in the region; and world class legislation for protecting intellectual and industrial property rights.

It would still be necessary to standardize and simplify customs procedures, to build the necessary infrastructure to facilitate trade, to attract investments, and to create clear rules for determining the origin of products. Some analysts believe that these are not easy tasks and, consequently, that it will not be easy to create by the year 2005 the free trade zone some Latin American countries have been dreaming about.

Specialists from the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) believe, for instance, that the fastest way of creating a free trade zone would be by expanding NAFTA—which consists of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

A report by the specialists says: "At present NAFTA accounts for 75 percent of trade in the Americas and, thanks to Mexico, the NAFTA treaty includes a clause that allows other countries to join it." Unlike Chile and Argentina, which are seeking to join this treaty, NAFTA is not a priority for Brazil either.

Chile, for instance, is just waiting for a green light from Washington. Yet, for protocol reasons, any announcement concerning the start of negotiations for Chile to join NAFTA will be delayed until after the conclusion of the summit.

Drugs

Lee Brown, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, has stated that the drug trade is a "barrier" to economic integration. For the U.S. Government, "by strangling business" the drug issue has forced foreign investors out of the region. Brown accused the Colombian Government, for instance, of failing to make the necessary efforts to destroy the Cali Cartel, which succeded the Medellin Cartel in managing the cocaine trade.

In response to Brown's remarks, Colombian President Ernesto Samper will propose at the summit the creation of an international system to fight drug trafficking and drug money laundering.

Senate Delays Vote on GATT Accords

PY0912022994 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2012 GMT 8 Dec 94

[By Aldo Renato Soares]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 8 Dec (AE)—The Senate delayed until next week its vote on the Uruguay Round accords of the GATT, which were approved on 7 December by the Chamber of Deputies. The draft legislative decree on the GATT accords has not yet been sent to the Senate secretariat.

Senator Jose Richa (PSDB-PR) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Parana], who is the rapporteur of the draft law on patents being discussed at the Senate, today said that following the approval of the Uruguay Round accords the draft law on patents will be adjusted accordingly to conform to the legal provisions on intellectual property approved under the Uruguay Round. Richa said: "The Brazilian law must be consistent with the Uruguay Round accords, otherwise, Brazilian trade policy will be undermined."

The strongest opposition to approval of the Uruguay Round accords is expected to come from Senator Antonio Mariz (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], who is the governor-elect of Paraiba State. Mariz is the rapporteur of the draft law on intellectual property, which is better known as the patent law, at the

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Senate Constitution and Justice Committee. Richa is the rapporteur of the bill at the Economic Affairs Committee.

Mariz said: "The provisions of the Uruguay Round accords on intellectual property are ambiguous and could hurt the scientific development of developing countries." The two most controversial topics of the accord on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which deals with intellectual property and which is part of the Uruguay Round accords, are the recognition of patent rights over microorganisms and the possibility of imports rendering irrelevant the obligation of manufacturing locally patented products.

Navy Intervenes in Nuclear Submarine Construction

95WP0032A Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 3 Nov 94 pp 1, 13

[Article by military analyst Roberto Lopes]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Navy has suspended construction of its first nuclear submarine after discovering irregularities. A pair of audits revealed a technical error in the design and assembly of the reactor and also found the project overstaffed. About 1,100 people are working on the project, but the auditors feel that only 600 are needed.

The Navy has taken control of the program to build its first nuclear submarine. Two investigations—one technical, on the status of the project, and the other administrative—revealed various problems.

The Navy's Coordinating Center for Special Projects (Copesp) is in charge of building the sub. Rear Admiral Othon Luis Pinheiro da Silva, who used to head it, was passed over during the last round of promotions—three months ago—and is now in the reserve.

Copesp is being directed by Admiral Arlindo Vianna Filho—a submarine expert who is well-regarded in his branch of the service—but, in January, the job is likely to be handed over to an engineering officer, Ivan de Aquino Viana.

Both men took part in the audits that indicated the need for intervention. In the technical realm, there were difficulties in compacting the prototype of the nuclear reactor that will be used in the submarine.

Revision

One solution for that problem would be to revise the entire design of the ship; it would have to be bigger. But that would make it necessary to restudy the engines, since they would have to be right for the boat's new size.

From the administrative standpoint, the Navy felt that Copesp, with a contingent of approximately 1,100 people, was "bloated." Admiral Arlindo wants to cut this down to 600. In the reactors department, which had 68 employees, he decided to keep only the 10 who are vital to continuation of the research.

Since Copesp's budget for next year will be less than the $73 million provided for 1993, Arlindo decided to use a leaner structure and concentrate efforts on three departments: reactors, mechanical design (propulsion plant), and uranium enrichment. The word in Brasilia is that most of the funds will be earmarked for the reactors department.

Residential Leases Arouse Suspicion

The Navy suspects there were improprieties involved in the rental of houses to researchers working on the nuclear sub program as carried out by Copesp while Admiral Othon Pinheiro was in charge.

The project has been conducted at the Aramar Experimental Center in the Sao Paulo city of Ipero, 125 km from the state capital, near Sorocaba. This is the region where the houses were leased.

The former chief of Copesp is now director of the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (Ipen) and will probably head up research in energy, in cooperation with the University of Brasilia (Unicamp) [acronym as published] and the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN).

Research on the nuclear sub has already eaten up about $640 million, and the project will not cost less than $900 million. Its most ardent defender is the current minister of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat, Admiral Mario Cesar Flores.

During the past 10 years, Admiral Othon Pinheiro was given free rein to manage the affairs of Copesp. In the past six years, he received full support from Flores who, first in important posts in the Navy—such as director general of materiel—and later as minister, gave him everthing he asked for.

Admiral Othon's prestige reached its peak on 12 March 1989, when then-President Jose Sarney announced that the Navy had mastered the uranium enrichment cycle via the ultracentrifuge project.

The announcement sparked protests from Germany's Green Party and sowed seeds of mistrust in the U.S. Government.

Cardoso Seeks Approval of Public Services Bill

PY0712125794 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia—Brazilian congressmen have already received the following message from President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso: If the draft bill on franchising public services to the private sector is not approved within the next 20 days, one of the first actions to be taken by his administration will be the promulgation of a provisional measure with the required legal

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steps to establish partnerships for finishing 10 hydroelectric plants and six thermoelectric plants that have been paralyzed for lack of resources. The bill, which Cardoso believes must be approved this year, has been in the hands of the Technical Committees Undersecretariat since its approval by Senator Jose Fogaca (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul]. Its inclusion on the agenda for voting, however, has not yet been considered.

Cardoso requested the approval of this bill for the first time one month ago. He did this during a meeting with economist Paulo Renato Souza, coordinator of the future administration's program; Planning Minister Beni Veras; Deputy Humberto Souto (PFL-MG) [Liberal Front Party-Minas Gerais], president of the Joint Budget Committee; and Senator Gilberto Miranda (PMDB-AM) [PMDB-Amazonas], budget rapporteur. Souza asked about the bill, and Veras answered that it had become a delicate problem, as Cardoso's original text had been entirely modified and no longer contemplated the next administration's program. Through Souza, the president-elect sent Congress the following message:

Well, if the bill is not approved, the president will promulgate a provisional measure regulating the franchises in the electricity sector as soon as he is installed.

Cardoso has already chosen 16 projects in the electricity sector—10 hydroelectric plants and six thermoelectric plants under construction—which he plans to finish in partnership with the private sector, through the system of services franchising. Cardoso also plans to hand the administration of the energy-producing companies over to the private sector, but this currently depends on the bill's approval by the Senate.

The transition team has detected several shortcomings in the bill and will ask President Itamar Franco to veto the articles dealing with biddings. They will also ask him to establish, if the bill is approved, a well-balanced method of distribution among the public and private sectors, thus preventing all good energy-consuming areas from being given to the private sector while all areas in deficit are given to the public sector.

Franco 'Officially' Appoints Central Bank Chief

PY0912011594 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2145 GMT 8 Dec 94

[By Odail Figueiredo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 8 Dec (AE)—Economist Persio Arida is the first member of President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso's team to be officially confirmed. At Cardoso's request, President Itamar Franco today submitted to the Senate Arida's nomination for president of the Central Bank [BC]. Cardoso had offered the position to him last week, but Arida only conveyed his acceptance to Cardoso during a meeting they held at the president- elect's house in Sao Paulo on 5 December. In addition to complying with a constitutional requirement—appointments of the BC president and board members must be confirmed by the Senate—Franco's initiative is designed to reassure the financial market about the continuity of the economic policy. Arida will have to appear before the Senate Economic Affairs Committee for his confirmation hearings. His appointment will have to be confirmed by the Senate plenum so that he may be able to take office early in January. Cardoso's advisers have noted that Arida's appointment will not force incumbent BC President Pedro Malan, who is likely to become the new finance minister, to leave his office.

Arida is currently serving as president of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development. Arida, who is from Sao Paulo, is one of the formulators of the Real Plan along with economist Andres Lara Resende, who left the government late in 1993. A graduate in economics from the University of Sao Paulo (USP), Arida also formulated the Cruzado Plan—which was launched in 1986 under the Sarney administration—jointly with Lara Resende. At that time, Arida served as socioeconomic coordination secretary at the Planning Ministry and as director of the BC Banking Department.

Regarded as a brilliant economist, Arida teaches at the USP and at the Pontifical Catholic University (PUC) of Rio de Janeiro, from where most members of Cardoso's economic team have graduated. Arida is a member of the Institute of Advanced Studies of Princeton University, of the Wilson Center, and of the Smithsonian Institute.

Cardoso Names Giomi Federal Budget Secretary

PY0812024694 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 94 Section 1 p 4

[By Monica Izaguirre]

[FBIS Translated Text] The transition from the Itamar Franco administration to that of Fernando Henrique Cardoso will start with the SOF (Secretariat for Federal Budget), a key organization for the fiscal adjustment program. Economist Valdemar Giomi, who was chosen by Cardoso to head the SOF in his administration, will already assume his office on 12 December.

Giomi will replace Mauro Marcondes Rodriguez, chief of staff of Planning Minister Beni Veras, who has served as acting SOF secretary since mid-October.

Last week, following an agreement between Veras and Paulo Renato Souza, the virtual new planning minister, Cardoso arranged for Giomi's early installation with President Franco.

Deputy Jose Serra (Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Sao Paulo) has proposed Giomi's appointment as SOF secretary. As planning secretary of the Franco Montoro administration in Sao Paulo State, Giomi was the head of the state's budget office. This decision stemmed from

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the need for the future SOF secretary to become familiarized as soon as possible with the 1995 budget proposal, which is being discussed in Congress.

Giomi's job will be to revise the budget by bringing to zero the potential deficit contained in the proposal. The budget revision will be done in 1995, even if by then the Congress may have already passed it into law. The revision may be implemented through another proposal.

At best, the 1995 budget will have an operational deficit (which includes real interest on the public debt) totaling 1.28 billion reals [R]—which has been calculated by the SOF based on a more flexible concept that takes into account the "good" resources the government is expected to raise through privatizations and foreign loans.

Following a stricter concept, which is the one recommended by the IMF, the deficit will be higher: R12.04 billion.

These two figures have been submitted to Congress. Aware that it will be difficult to implement a R12-billion-adjustment during the new administrations's first year of government, Cardoso's team will have to work with the more flexible concept.

Privatization proceeds, which are included in the flexible concept, are one of the pillars of the adjustment Cardoso seeks to implement.

Workers Party To 'Soften' Terms of Opposition

PY0612222994 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2215 GMT 5 Dec 94

[By Lucia Helena Gazzola]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 5 Dec (AE)—The Workers Party [PT] national executive board today decided to soften the terms of its opposition to the future administration of Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], which it had outlined last week. By a nine to two vote, the PT today decided to reverse its earlier decision to force the PT governors-elect to oppose the federal administration. PT Secretary General Gilberto Carvalho said: "It was an act of prudence and of respect for the governors." He added: "We recognize that their role is not that of opposing Planalto Palace. Thus, instead of telling them what to do, we prefer to discuss with them ways to jointly build an opposition force."

The reversal of the PT position is in keeping with the position adopted by the two PT governors-elect, Victor Buaiz in Espirito Santo and Cristovam Buarque in the Federal District. They have publicly stated their opposition to the PT decision, holding that governors are neither for nor against the Federal Government, with which they must relate for the good of their states. The PT executive board also removed from its agenda of reforms the idea of discussing with other opposition parties the possibility of an audit on the foreign debt and the granting of job security to all workers. [passage omitted]

Experts Confirm Congressmen's Phones 'Tapped'

PY0912020994 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 94 p A7

[By Jose Casado]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia—Experts of the Criminal Institute of the Federal District have confirmed that the telephones in an entire bloc of apartments where 20 federal deputies live, as well as the telephones of the regional office of the Sole Workers Center [CUT] in Brasilia, have been tapped.

This is the first case of phone tapping for political objectives to be confirmed by criminal experts. The police and the district attorney's office suspect that the illegal tapping started during the investigation conducted by the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] looking into irregular handling of the budget. The general telephone distribution center of the 202 North Superblock in Brasilia, where experts detected vestiges of "tapping," serves the telephones installed in the homes of the deputies, some of whom were directly involved in the corruption investigation.

The private telephones of the CUT board members in the Brasilia office, 2 km from the deputies' homes, have been under observation during the same period of time. The CUT was one of the political-labor union organizations that exerted pressure on the CPI. The CUT conducted a campaign against Federal District Governor Joaquim Roriz, who was charged with corruption and with bribing deputies of the local Legislative Assembly. At the time, Roriz got involved in other embarrassing situations such as recording telephone calls for former Parana Governor Alvaro Dias, with whom he was disputing the Popular Party presidency.

For months, Roriz was threatened with impeachment by the Federal District Legislative Assembly, which finally decided to dismiss the case. In April, the magazine VEJA reported that some of Roriz' aids had organized a political "protection" operation, which included tapping their adversaries' telephones.

On 9 May, the CUT board asked the Justice Ministry to begin investigating the magazine's charges. Almost three months later, in August, experts of the Criminal Institute checked the telephones in the deputies' homes and in the CUT office. The results of this investigation were handed last week to District Attorney Temistocles Castro, who is in charge of this case.

Colombia

Council Approves Downing of 'Hostile Aircraft'

PA0812195194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From the "Cripton Newscast"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of State has just approved the downing and attacking of hostile aircraft that overfly Colombian skies and fail to identify themselves. These operations will receive U.S. radar support.

Minister Speaks on Rural Security Cooperatives

PA0612211594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Interview with Defense Minister Fernando Botero by reporter Orlando Guerrero from Narino Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] Defense Minister Fernando Botero has just arrived at Narino Palace for a meeting with the president. Orlando Guerrero is at the palace. Good evening, Orlando.

[Guerrero] Good evening. A meeting is scheduled to begin here at Narino Palace in a few minutes between President Ernesto Samper and Defense Minister Fernando Botero. Various topics are on the agenda. The defense minister has just arrived. Mr. Minister, excuse me for a minute before the meeting begins. The president practically gave a green light today to the proposal for rural security cooperatives. How do you view this issue?

[Botero] The president has outlined a basic concern regarding rural security. This topic has become a government priority and is quite positive, but, as the president said, we will discuss what the rural security policy is really going to be at a Security Council meeting.

[Guerrero] Mr. Minister, do you already know when and where this pilot plan will first be implemented?

[Botero] If the rural security program is approved at this Security Council meeting and the program includes the topic of the cooperatives, the plan is to select five municipalities which have been affected by various types of violence and which are also representative of the five basic regions in the country.

[Guerrero] Do we already know which regions of the country will have the benefit of these types of programs?

[Botero] No. In reality, no decision has been made in this regard up until now.

[Guerrero] Mr. Minister, thank you for your time.

We have just brought you a last-minute report. President Samper and the defense minister are going to hold a meeting to discuss topics such as security. This was a last-minute report by Orlando Guerrero directly from Narino Palace.

Development Minister on Social Pact Talks

PA0812162994 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Economic Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi; from "Caracol's 0000 to 0900" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arizmendi] We now greet Economic Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal. Talks that began last Friday on an agreement on Samper Pizano's so-called Social Pact ended at approximately 0200. So far, the only stumbling blocks to an agreement are issues surrounding a new minimum wage index in 1995. Good morning, Mr. Minister.

[Marin] Hello, Dario. Good morning to you and all your listeners.

[Arizmendi] Were any agreements reached between the various parties? Or is there still some distance between the government's proposal of a 19.1-percent increase and the 24.6 percent proposed by the workers?

[Marin] First, I would like to tell you and your listeners that substantial progress was accomplished last night by the commission responsible for the Social Productivity Price and Wages Pact. Discussions revolved around a very wide-ranging document submitted by the government as a framework for all initial discussions. In this regard, all discussions took place very swiftly and dynamically, which I can only describe as very refreshing. Talks revolved around the document's chapter on background to the general propositions and on the commitments contracted by the national government. Specifically, these commitments include those related to [words indistinct] economic, cost of utilities like gasoline and other public services, and levels of private prices like rent, medication, transportation, pensions, and registrations subject to government controls.

Similarly, progress was also made in establishing commitments from business sectors. There were some differences on this that were finally settled by a subcommittee presided over by the director of the National Planning Department.

On the other side, we were able to reach an agreement on commitments from each of the country's territorial departments. Each governor and mayor have agreed to continue, as much as possible, with the government's goods and services price control policies as related to rent, urban transportation, and so forth, and to effectively contribute to inflation control objectives.

As you have pointed out—and the public is well aware of this—we still have to establish an adjustment of the minimum wage. As you also pointed out, a subcommittee made up of economic development officials and union representatives worked until 0100 and 0200. During this meeting each party presented its respective proposals. We have mutually established a reasonable deadline for arriving at a common position. The government is quite optimistic about the final outcome of this crucial undertaking, which should progressively steer the economy toward inflation levels conducive to economic activity, as well as being socially tolerable.

[Arizmendi] You mentioned something about a reasonable deadline. When does that deadline expire, Mr. Minister?

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[Marin] Tentatively, the deadline expires sometime today, immediately following the consultations each union leader is conducting with the executive committees of his respective confederation and federation, as well as the consultations the government expects to conduct. It is evident that throughout this undertaking the government has provided evidence of a high degree of unity and willingness.

[Arizmendi] What is the difference between each side's proposal on the minimum wage?

[Marin] The government has proposed a minimum wage adjustment pegged to the projected rate of inflation, instead of to previous rates of inflation, as we believe that this is the essence of the Social Pact. This proposal's objective is restoring the economy with inflation levels more or less equal to the rate already lost because of the negative impact of inflation on income distribution, investment, savings, growth—even on the competitiveness of our goods overseas. Thus, it is important to the government to gradually dismantle the initial pattern of inflation, which in Colombia means adopting mechanisms that take future inflation into account. If we have submitted this proposal as a nonnegotiable point in the agreement, it is because the government aspires to having the same criteria used in determining wage adjustments.

At any rate, based on documented evaluations that have been submitted to the commissions, we believe that the economy's overall productivity has grown approximately 2 percent. By using productivity as a defining and determinant component, combined with the projected inflation of wage adjustment, we hope that workers unions will understand that the government's proposal is reasonable, serious, and easy to substantiate.

[Arizmendi] The government has offered 20 percent above the current minimum wage. Mr. Minister, will the National Labor Council set a new minimum wage in the remote event that an agreement is not reached today? Or will a presidential decree simply be issued?

[Marin] First, I do not usually answer questions on possibilities that I have not considered. I believe we will reach an agreement. This agreement, resulting from the recommendations and proposals that the Social Pact for Productivity, Prices, and Salaries Commission should make during the first week of December, which has not yet ended, should be endorsed by the National Labor Council, which is the agency tasked with defining minimum salary adjustments. If all these conditions are met, it will not be necessary for the government to resort to the extreme mechanism of unilaterally adjusting salaries.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, former presidential candidate Andres Pastrana has said that the concerted effort pushed by President Ernesto Samper poses the danger that economic policy will end up favoring those more likely to make themselves heard in those committees for concerted efforts. What do you think?

[Marin] Please repeat the question. I did not understand.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, former candidate Pastrana, in a commentary published today in EL TIEMPO, says that the concerted effort proposed by President Samper through the Social Pact poses the danger that economic policy will end up favoring those more likely to make themselves heard in those committees for concerted efforts.

[Marin] [Words indistinct] former candidate Pastrana thinks those things. Maybe his absence from the country has kept him from learning more accurately the nature and scope of the concerted effort within the framework of a policy that intends to lower inflation on a short- and medium-term basis to levels compatible with the economic needs and the people's well-being. The concerted effort is an instrument complementing macroeconomic policy. The government has said very clearly that the macroeconomic goals agreed on by [words indistinct] and Bank of the Republic result from a combination of consistent policies on the management of currency and credits; that, consequently, the increase in private loans does not exceed 35 percent annually; that the increase in the means of payment has a goal of 24.5 percent; that the government has pledged to reach a surplus in the nonfinancial public sector equivalent to 0.7 percent of the GNP; that these policies are consistent with the stability of the true exchange rate within the framework of exchange bank system; that, in addition, an important innovation was added to this first concerted effort exercise that the government did with the other members of the Bank of the Republic's Board of Directors, an innovation consisting of conducting a quarterly follow-up of the results of macroeconomic and financial policy to determine the necessary adjustments. The government has pledged to make additional efforts to reduce spending for as much as the equivalent of 0.5 percent of the GNP. This would produce a fiscal surplus of as much as 1.2 percent of the GNP, approximately 720 billion pesos. This represents a great effort by the government to make the fiscal policy performance coincide with the 18 percent inflation goal. These are thoughts and ideas with which Mr. Pastrana is surely not familiar.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Minister, what does the government think about the letter that the Santo Domingo Group addressed to President Samper requesting that the adjustment in beer and soft drink prices usually made in January be made later in 1995 as a contribution to the productivity, prices, and salaries agreement?

[Marin] The business sector's commitments, which appear in the corresponding chapter of the draft under discussion, have already been virtually accepted by the business sector's spokesmen. They not only pledge to set their price increases in accordance with the goal of 18-percent inflation set for 1995 but agreed that a subcommission of the pact commission examine the movement of some products whose manufacture requires large-scale use of imported raw materials and

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supplies. Action will be taken according to a previously agreed upon mechanism. This shows the business sector's firm determination to support the Social Pact. This decision by the Santo Domingo Group coincides with the consistent stand that the business sector has presented during the talks.

Attorney General Calls For Discipline of Generals

92P20228

[FBIS Media Note] The Attorney General's Office issued a statement on 23 November calling for disciplinary action against Major Generals Camilo Zuniga and Eddie Alberto Pallares and Brigadier General Fernando Gonzalez for irregularites in the awarding of a government contract (EL TIEMPO, 24 November). The announcement came one day after the appointment of Zuniga and Pallares as commander of the Armed Forces and chief of the joint staff, respectively, and was based on the results of an investigation conducted by the Office of the Attorney General Delegate for Administrative Contracting. The investigation concluded that Zuniga, Pallares, and Gonzalez—who together comprised the Army Negotiating Committee—gave preferential treatment to Must Trading Ltd. in contracting for the purchase of 52,969 pairs of boots costing 994,545,944 pesos. Although the press reports did not mention the date of the contract, they noted that the investigation was opened on 24 April 1994. (EL TIEMPO, 24 November)

The Attorney General's Office called for Pallares to be suspended for 30 days without pay, and recommended that a letter of reprimand be placed in Zuniga's personnel file, and that Gonzalez be fined 720,800 pesos (EL TIEMPO, 24 November).

The statement also called for the following disciplinary action against three other officers named in the investigation: a fine of 328,928 pesos for Colonel Fabio Munoz Eslaba, and letters of reprimand for Colonels Luis Carlos Ramirez Lopez and Ignacio Baez Vega. (EL TIEMPO, 24 November).

Both Zuniga—who said he learned of the charges through a radio report—and Pallares denied any wrongdoing and said they would appeal the charges. According to EL ESPECTADOR (24 November), Defense Minister Fernando Botero came to the two officers' defense, saying that, while he respected the decision of the Attorney General's Office, he did not agree with it.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Flies to Miami Summit Despite Doctor's Warning

PA0812135294 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen flew to Miami yesterday to attend the Summit of the Americas although his private doctor has warned him his spinal column injury could worsen.

The president underwent surgery in Washington recently for an injury in his lower spinal column and a disk hernia between the second and third vertebrae. The U.S. doctors administered physiotherapy after the operation and recommended that he reduce his activities for two months. Duran-Ballen decided, however, to attend the summit convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton and scheduled to be held 9-11 December.

The president said before his departure that he hopes the summit will not be just rhetorics and that a specific and progressive alliance can be struck for the good of all of America. He illustrated his point by recalling the summit convened by President Kennedy, when the Alliance for Progress was formed, adding this meeting was simple rhetorics that achieved virtually nothing. He hopes the Miami summit will result in something constructive and beneficial for all.

Paraguay

President Wasmosy Leaves for Americas Summit

PY0912005394 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, left for Miami this afternoon.

President Wasmosy, who was accompanied by a small entourage, will participate in the Summit of the Americas that will begin tomorrow. The 34 heads of democratic governments who are meeting in Miami will discuss, among other issues, trade deregulation, the strengthening of democracy, and sustained development.

President Wasmosy, who did not make any remarks to journalists prior to his departure, received the appropriate farewell greetings and boarded a small bus that transported him to the Silvio Pettirossi airport terminal. There, he boarded an airliner bound for Miami where he will participate in the U.S. Government-sponsored summit.

EU Vice President Visits To Discuss Cooperation

PY0712170394 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Of the eight cooperation programs the EU has financed in Paraguay, two are conspicuously prominent for their social component: first, the San Pedro-Caaguazu agricultural colonization program, which provides for the settlement of 25,000 people on 40,000 hectares; and second, the sustainable development of the Chaco region, which aims at improving the

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standard of living of the indigenous communities living in the area and preserving the subtropical forests of this region.

European Union Vice President Manuel Marin expressed his satisfaction over the follow-up given to all cooperation programs undertaken in our country. The following are the remaining six programs: a technical study for the building of a water collection system for the Pilcomayo River; agricultural technical aid and cooperation for Mercosur [Common Market of the South]; improvement of Paraguayan product quality; professional training in the private sector; support for industrial retooling; and aid for Congress and cooperation programs for animal and plant health and for food quality control.

During a news conference he gave yesterday at the downtown hotel at which he was staying, Marin said: "We are progressing at cruising speed toward what can be labeled normal cooperation." He nonetheless warned that neither the program for the settlement of peasants in San Pedro-Caaguazu nor the sustainable development of the Chaco region "will solve the great problem confronting Paraguay and Latin America in general. We can help, but only to a certain extent. The major problem Latin America will have to come to grips with in the next century is its social debt," he added.

Marin insisted on the fact that it is possible to have economic stability at the same time as major political development, but the Western Hemisphere's big problem is its social debt—to achieve a better distribution of wealth and a more balanced and fairer economy. "This is the great debate that will come to the forefront in the next 10 to 15 years throughout the entire (South American) continent, as political and economic stability is already a fact about which we must congratulate ourselves," he added.

Marin commented that the EU has allocated some $30 million for cooperation programs currently being undertaken in Paraguay, but that this sum will climb to $50 million once they are completed. The total cost of the colonization project in San Pedro-Caaguazu, the sustainable development of the Chaco region, and the technical aid for Mercosur amounts to $46 million.

He said that once Mercosur becomes operational on 1 January 1995 and regional cooperation is under way, the EU will start negotiations on the major project of the region, namely the Paraguay-Parana Waterway. The main objective of this intergovernmental project is to have a 3,442 km long navigation channel for boats of up to 10 feet in draft from the port of Caceres (Brazil) to Nueva Palmira (Uruguay).

Says Democratic Process Fares Well

PY0712024294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1825 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Asuncion today, European Union Vice President Manuel Marin, a Spanish citizen, emphasized that, even though it experiences unavoidable tensions, the Paraguayan democratic process "truly is at a point of no return."

In remarks to EFE, Marin, who ended an official three-day visit to Paraguay today, said a retrogression of the [democratic] process would be unthinkable because even the most recalcitrant segments are convinced that going backward "would mire the country in the most absolute economic, political, and moral misery."

With regard to the military sectors that for decades have been dominating Paraguayan political life, the European Union vice president stated that they must understand that the democratically- elected civilian power is the one that exercises supreme authority and that the Armed Forces "merely are instrumental to the society."

Marin emphasized: "The people, with the supremacy of a directly- elected civilian power, are the ones who chart the country's course and future, and everyone, the Army and the economic and social policies, must submit themselves to this popular decision. This is how the democratic system works."

Minister Says Armed Forces Obey Disciplinary Measures

PY0612014694 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 5 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Armed Forces as a whole not only obey the disciplinary measures imposed by the commander in chief, they also share them," Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche said this morning at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony that was held at the Military College.

With this assertion, the minister denied that there is discontent within the Armed Forces. When he was asked about the charges made by the arrested generals to the effect that some high-ranking officers—a reference to General Lino Oviedo—participate in party politics, Estigarribia said that he has no knowledge of the charges.

"I do not know what military personnel mentioned that," he said. The minister stated that this morning Wasmosy met with the top-ranking members of the Armed Forces "just to inform them about his trip to Japan and Mexico."

Regarding a possible meeting on 16 December in which the case of Generals Pedro Concepcion Ocampos, Evelio Fabio Benitez Santacruz, and the recently released Eumelio Ramon Bernal will presumably be discussed, Estigarribia indicated that he has information about a seminar that will be held in order to evaluate 1994.

"It will not be a revision of the situation of the Armed Forces. It will only be a review of the activities carried out throughout the year, of the proposed goals to be achieved, and of what has and has not been achieved," he stressed.

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Peru

President Fujimori Leaves for Summit

PY0812201794 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Alberto Fujimori left today for Miami to meet with (?19) presidents and 14 prime ministers in the Summit of the Americas. The official delegation is made up of Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg; Lilliana Canale, minister of industry, tourism, integration, and international trade negotiations; and Economy Minister Jorge Camet.

According to the resolution published in EL PERUANO, Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka will be interim president during Fujimori's absence.

Perez de Cuellar Opens Presidential Campaign

PY0912115394 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidential candidate Javier Perez de Cuellar said last night that during his recent European tour he was able to obtain commitments from important investors to invest $10 billion in Peru to generate production. He said the only condition demanded by the investors is a guaranteed democratic and economic stabilization, which is "what we are advocating for our administration."

"The investments are aimed at giving work to Peruvians who already have our commitment that we will use the resources for our youth and those who need them most," said Perez de Cuellar, before more than 1,000 people gathered at the new headquarters of the Union for Peru Movement, which is located on the 17th block of Arequipa Avenue.

Unable to hide his great joy over the affection shown by the public, who never stopped shouting out his name as the new president of Peru, Perez de Cuellar also announced that with this act he was beginning his presidential campaign. He said: "We are just beginning, and we are already doing well with the promise of aid from foreign investors and the support of all of you."

Supremely confident of his victory, and because of the promises received from abroad, Perez de Cuellar, who was with his wife Marcela and the members of his presidential ticket, also said that he would appropriate 30 percent of the national budget for the provinces through the municipalities.

This prompted greater applause from the public, who came from various Lima districts and even from some provinces close to the capital, and shouted "We can already feel Javier will be president."

"The provinces have the right to development. What will be appropriated is only part of the large portion to which they are entitled, a demand made with justice," said Perez de Cuellar, after a brief news conference and before a large public fiesta, where he danced with those present.

He also referred to the claims he had made while in Spain of possible fraud in the upcoming elections, which were criticized by the government. Perez de Cuellar said, in a humorous manner, I confirm every word I said, and this reaction made reporters laugh. He explained that the proof that he was right was the decision by the National Election Board to submit a bill restricting President Alberto Fujimori's use of state resources for his reelection campaign. He added: This is why it is essential that the bill submitted by the board be approved as soon as possible to guarantee the openness of the elections.

He also pointed out the need to create 2 million jobs in the next few years as a solution to the extreme poverty affecting over 12 million Peruvians. He said that investors know that the money they will invest will be used to reactivate mainly agriculture, mining, and all productive sectors.

He added: We also know that a pacification policy cannot be achieved with the elimination of terrorism alone, but by creating work and eliminating poverty, especially in the areas most affected by violence.

Perez de Cuellar said that promises of investment were given to him in France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and Luxembourg, and that he still has to meet with investors from Germany and other countries. The promised investments could therefore be higher.

He also called on all candidates who, as he does, feel they are not running on an equal basis at the beginning of the race, to unite in an effort to guarantee the openness of the elections. He said: "They can do this on their own if they want to, but they should do so."

Perez de Cuellar said that investors demand democratic stability, but this cannot exist under an authoritarian government like Fujimori's.

This is why he said the public can choose in the upcoming elections between a government of democracy or the continuation of authoritarianism, because nothing can guarantee that President Fujimori won't stay in power another 20 years.

Perez de Cuellar said that if the electoral campaign allows it, he would return to Europe in the next few weeks to continue using his links with international organizations to get new investment promises.

Perez de Cuellar left early today for Ayacucho to continue his campaign in Huamanga and other provinces of Ayacucho Department.

Graciela Fernandez Baca, candidate for first vice president on Perez de Cuellar's ticket, said that Perez de Cuellar would disclose in this department the main points of his government platform, which are based on an all-out struggle against poverty with sustained growth

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mainly in mining and agriculture; the transfer of technology; and the creation of well-paying jobs.

Iridium 192 Radioisotopes To Be Exported

PY0712223894 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Nov 94 p A16

[FBIS Translated Text] As of January, Peru may export "iridium 192," one of the most widely used radioisotopes in the industrial world. Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN) officials announced that Peru can now produce these isotopes. They confirmed that the iridium 192 production process is about to be completed at the Huarangal (Racso) Nuclear Center.

There is great demand for these radioisotopes in industrialized countries, so a market exists. The demand in Peru is very limited and its production would not be justifiable merely for local consumption. Due to its infrastructure, Argentina will market the isotopes.

The idea gained strength during the recent signing of an agreement by Horacio Ozuna, an adviser of the National Commission for Atomic Energy of Argentina and a member of Invap [Applied Research Institute], and IPEN officials. The agreement will allow, in the short term, the signing of a joint venture [preceding two words in English] agreement for the marketing of radioisotopes produced at the Huarangal Nuclear Center.

Cabinet Ministers Defend 1995 Budget

PY0712221994 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 26 Nov 94 p A5

[All numbers as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The budget for the 1995 fiscal year amounts to 21.84 billion new soles, of which 8.725 billion is earmarked for the social sectors such as education, health, labor, and justice. This was disclosed during the explanation given by the cabinet members during a plenary session of the Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD), in compliance with Article 80 of the new Constitution.

As he explained the budget, Economy and Finance Minister Jorge Camet Dickmann said that most of the budget is covered by Treasury resources, which amount to 19.26 billion new soles (88 percent of the total budget).

Camet Dickmann, who was the first minister to defend the annual budget, said that the amount earmarked for his ministry amounts to 6.5948 billion new soles. He explained that next year's tax collection is expected to amount to 14 million new soles, therefore, the current system will not be modified.

Regarding the social sectors, Labor Minister Augusto Antonioli Vasquez explained that the budget earmarked for his sector amounts to 13.205 million new soles and that 155.847 million new soles have been allocated for the Foreign Ministry.

Fisheries Minister Jaime Sobero Taira, whose ministry will receive 89.33 million new soles, explained, on behalf of the Justice Ministry, that the budget for that ministry amounts to 207.054 million new soles, of which 188.222 million will be for the National Penitentiary Institute.

Education Minister Pedro Villena asserted that the education sector will receive 4,316,009,000 new soles, while the health sector's budget amounts to 1,272,748,000 new soles.

Maria Luisa Federici asserted that the Ministry of the Presidency will receive 2,346,512,000 new soles that will be used to execute projects to improve the standard of living of the poorest sectors.

Luis Serpa Segura, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, requested during the CCD plenary session that the 228.562 million new soles earmarked for this sector be increased to 724 million new soles in order to increase the justices' salaries and the services charged with administering justice. A similar request was made by Attorney General Blanca Nelida Colan, who pointed out the need to increase the 100.505 million new soles to 417.578 million.

Finally, Ricardo Nugent Lopez-Chavez, director of the National Election Board [JNE], pointed out the need to increase the JNE budget, which amounts to 9,222,721 new soles, to create 540 new provincial electoral registries, pay for food rations for the members of the balloting stations, and finance the services the electoral process requires.

Minister Camet Dickmann stated yesterday that negotiations with the international creditor banks may start in mid-December, after the lawsuits the country has with 33 of these institutions have been settled.

He made this comment after defending his sector's budget before the CCD plenary session, which lasted four hours. Camet also asserted that the country has obtained a total of $4 million in productive loans earmarked for health and education, to improve the living standard of the most needy sectors. He added that Peru has allocated $1 billion for the amortization of the contracted debt.

Moreover, he commented that the development of productive activities such as mining, agroindustry, and tourism will help reverse the negative indicators of the country's trade balance.

He ended by commenting that according to the evolution of the Peruvian economy during this year, a 6-percent growth will be attained and the inflation rate will be reduced to 10 percent.

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Documents Reveal 'Demoralization' of Terrorists

PY0712224194 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Nov 94 p A14

[FBIS Translated Text] The unruly faction of the Maoist Shining Path [SL] group, now headed by Oscar Alberto Ramirez Durand, aka "Feliciano," has admitted its defeat in documents seized during the past few days in terrorist camps and hideouts in various parts of the country.

The discovery of the important documents, addressed to Feliciano, according to analysts, reveal the demoralization of the terrorists who still operate in this gang. According to intelligence sources, the documents contain reports and analysis by the SL "leadership" giving details of the massive desertion of its "combatants" in Puno, Huanuco, and Ayacucho.

Documents found in the camps the SL had in Viscatan, Rasuhuillca, Colquemarca, and Pumacahuas, for example, refer to the lack of foodstuffs and medicines, and mention that the terrorists are fighting with "God-sent material" (machetes, spears, and knives).

The "grass-roots combatants" are convinced that the war is lost and that they are now fighting on two fronts: against the counterterrorist forces that have them constantly on the run and the people who reject them and confront them without fear.

According to specialists, in the messages the terrorists reflect despair and assert that many of those who enrolled voluntarily now belong to the groups whose relatives have been threatened with death. The reports even maintain that "they can no longer be entrusted with acts of sabotage."

In other paragraphs they ask "Feliciano" to distribute in Lima part of the protection fees paid by the drug trafficking "firms" to contribute to the survival of the "popular committees" located in the shantytowns on the Central Highway, the location from which the most hair-raising attacks in Lima have been perpetrated.

According to intelligence sources, the weapons, ammunition, and communications equipment possessed by Ramirez Durand were obtained from Colombian drug trafficker Waldo Vargas, aka "El Ministro," who operates on the border of the Ayacucho jungle, in Satipo, Ene, and Upper Huallaga.

Analysts believe that in view of this situation, the SL leader may try to perpetrate a series of attacks with the purpose of proving to those who are thinking of abandoning him that the so-called Left-Wing Liquidator Faction [Linea Liquidacionista de Izquierda] has not lost power and is still alive nationwide.

The analysts explain that the attempts to create power vacuums by means of intimidation, as happened a few weeks ago in Huamachuco, Curgos, and Marcababalito (La Libertad) in the north, and El Cafe, Jaen (Cajamarca), and Huarmaca (Piura), may happen again. Moreover, they maintain that it is quite likely attacks will be perpetrated in important cities, even the capital.

The reports ended by stating that "Feliciano" and the members of his "leadership" are currently enduring their worst crisis since they decided to reject the peace agreement proposed by Guzman Reinoso."

Uruguay

Congress Approves Uruguay Round of GATT Talks

PY0812180094 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 3 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 December the Chamber of Representatives unanimously approved the agreements resulting from the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (GATT).

The Senate had on 11 October approved the agreements negotiated by Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu. Congress had to approve the GATT Uruguay Round before the end of the year.

Sanguinetti Calls On Political Sector for Cooperation

PY0812150094 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2110 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Article by unnamed correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 7 Dec (TELAM-SNI)—Uruguayan President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti stated today that the Colorado Party will not be able to govern alone, and asked for the cooperation of the opposition in order to carry out the country's transformation with an eye to regional integration.

"The overall political system cannot deprive society from achieving the consensus needed to govern," Sanguinetti told 300 businessmen from the Christian Association of Business Executives.

Sanguinetti won the recent 27 November general elections with the minimal advantage of only 23,000 votes over the ruling National or Blanco Party and 35,000 votes over the Broad front leftist coalition.

"Uruguay is facing a difficult but hopeful panorama that will also require the cooperation of businessmen and workers," the future president emphasized.

He stated that the reform of the social security system, the educational sector, and the continuation of the reform of the state "are indispensable and urgent modifications that are necessary for improving the country's competitiveness in the region and in the world."

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Sanguinetti added that these changes "require political agreements," and that "the political system cannot deprive society by refusing to assume the responsibilities that we have in this field."

He also recalled that over the past few days he has held talks with several political leaders "in an open and generous spirit, without fantasies or having blinkers on."

The president-elect expressed his confidence "that the dialogue will be fruitful," and stressed "having found unlimited willingness from the political leaders."

Sanguinetti stressed that as future chief of state "we will assume the appropriate role," adding that "naturally we will need the participation of the political system."

He emphasized that no matter what efforts are made by the chief of state, "he will not be able to implement the necessary changes and transformations without the instruments of a political agreement."

"We do not want to delegate even the smallest of our responsibilities, and know that we have to be first when sacrifices are needed, and first as to responsibility," Sanguinetti said.

The president-elect added that "we have not yet talked about a cabinet named in such and such a way, and even less parcelled out, but we have indicated that the cabinet must reflect a level of overall consensus in the political system in which no one feels he has been left out."

Finally, he expressed his desire to reach 15 February 1995, when the new Congress will be installed, and 1 March, when he will assume the presidency, "with agreements that will allow the country to look toward its future with hope and tranquility."

Sanguinetti expressed his confidence in achieving political agreements, and warned that if he does not the country will "face a crisis that, going beyond the political, will also be spiritual, as the ability to govern ourselves will be placed in doubt."

Sanguinetti's Economic Team Outlines Future Policy

PY0812135294 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1903 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Article by unnamed correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 7 Dec (TELAM-SNI)—Uruguayan President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti's economic team today announced that the reduction of inflation to the international level of the developed countries is its fundamental objective.

The Colorado Party economists added that the elected chief of state also proposes achieving a fixed exchange rate that will be compatible with stability.

Sanguinetti's team explained the program to some 300 businessmen in the forum organized by the Christian Association of Business Executives (ACDE).

Ariel Davrieux, one of the more firm candidates for posting to the Economy Ministry, and accountant Ricardo Pascale indicated that Uruguay has "a happy future" with the opening up of Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Davrieux highlighted the fact that "confidence in an open and competitive economy with great possibilities for regional growth" will be the starting point for the new administration.

He added that in order to achieve this "a consistent macroeconomic policy will be implemented" in which "the fiscal, exchange, credit, and salary policies will be coherent with an external competitiveness."

The economist emphasized that the first commitment of Sanguinetti's elected government "will be that of implementing a policy that will not discourage the efforts of the private sector."

Davrieux said that "adequate protection of the productive sectors" will be applied "through mechanisms such as the return of taxes when this is compatible with GATT and Mercosur."

According to Davrieux, the intention of this measure is to make "national production more competitive in the local, regional, and international markets."

He also announced that "the Sanguinetti administration will support reconversion plans and specific productive sectors."

Davrieux stated that "a reduction of the weight of the state will be carried out" and "an educational reform to help the people prepare for a competitive era" will also be promoted.

Pascale, who was president of the Central Bank during Sanguinetti's first administration (1985-1990), emphasized that "the next administration's goal is that of achieving price stability and the creation of jobs."

He indicated that "Uruguay has lived with an average 60 percent inflation over the past 30 years" and that today "it must be compatible with the inflation of the region's countries."

Pascale added that "it is much easier to reduce hyperinflation than it is to reduce an inflation such as Uruguay's, where many people were born, grew up, and educated themselves with price instability."

He stated that "the final objective is to achieve an exchange rate that is compatible with stability."

Meanwhile, "realistic exchange rates will be implemented as one of the contributions to competitiveness."

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Composition of Chamber of Deputies Examined

PY0612125494 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 29 Nov 94 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the districts of Montevideo, Canelones, and San Jose will probably be competing for two seats, and the results for two seats in Canelones are not yet known, the preliminary count allows us to advance the composition of the Chamber of Deputies for the period 1995-2000, according to data confirmed by EL PAIS with electoral officials and our correspondents in the interior of the country.

Out of 99 seats, 54 for the interior of the country and 45 for Montevideo, the Colorado Party won 32 seats, the National Party 31, Progressive Encounter 28, and the New Sector six.

Considering the interior of the country and Montevideo, the Colorado Party won 12 seats for Montevideo and 20 for the interior of the country, the National Party won 10 seats for Montevideo and 23 for the interior of the country, Progressive Encounter won 20 seats for Montevideo and eight for the interior of the country, and the New Sector won five seats for Montevideo and one for the interior of the country.

Seats Broken Down by Political Group

Broken down by groups within the political parties and within the Colorado Party, Sanguinetti won 18 seats for the interior of the country and six for Montevideo, [Colorado and Batlleist Union Senator Pablo] Millor won one seat for the interior of the country and two seats for Montevideo, [Colorado leader Victor] Vaillant won one seat for the interior of the country, the Colorado and Batlleist Union won one seat for Montevideo, and Jorge Batlle's List 15 won two seats for Montevideo.

Within the National Party, Alberto Volonte's group won 11 seats for the interior of the country and four seats for Montevideo, the Herreraist faction won nine seats for the interior of the country and five for Montevideo, and the National Rocha Movement won one seat for Montevideo and one for the interior of the country.

Within the Progressive Encounter, the Uruguay Assembly [Asamblea Uruguay] group, headed by Danilo Astori, won four seats for the interior of the country and nine for Montevideo, the Socialist Party won three seats for the interior of the country and four for Montevideo, the Artigas Sector Coalition won two seats for Montevideo, List 1001 won two seats for Montevideo, List 609 won two seats for Montevideo, List 306 won one seat for the interior of the country, and List 78, headed by Rodolfo Nin Novoa, won one seat for Montevideo.

The New Sector won six seats for the Chamber of Deputies, namely five for Montevideo and one for Canelones Department.

New Deputies for Departments on the Uruguay River

In Artigas Department, Batlleist Forum candidates Carlos Enrique De Vechi and Carlos Soria are competing for one Colorado Party seat (De Vechi has 34 votes more than Soria, and the observed votes must still be counted), and Julio Silveira and Carlos Dos Santos are competing for one National Party seat (Silveira has 14 votes more than Dos Santos). Silveira and Santos are from the Volonte group.

In Salto Department, Luis Batlle Bertolini (Colorado Party- Batlleist Forum), Juan Manuel Gutierrez (National Party-Volonte group), and Luis Fontes (Progressive Encounter-Uruguay Assembly) were elected deputies.

In Paysandu Department, Ricardo Molinelli (Colorado Party- Batlleist Forum), Juan Federico Bosh (National Party-Volonte group), and Ruben Obispo (Progressive Encounter-Uruguay Assembly) were elected deputies.

In Rio Negro Department, Mario Espinosa (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) and Carlos Lazcano (National Party-Volonte group) were elected deputies.

In Soriano Department, Walter Vener (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum), Luis Andriolo (National Party-Herreraist faction), and Roque Arregui (Progressive Encounter-Socialist Party) were elected deputies.

Deputies in Southern Uruguay

In Colonia District, Waldemar Fernandez (National Party-Volonte group), Carlos Garat (National Party-Herreraist faction), Ariel Lausarot (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum), and Jorge Coll (Progressive Encounter-Socialist Party) were elected deputies.

In San Jose Department, which may compete for another seat, Jorge Chapper (National Party-Herreraist faction) and Daniel Arena (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) were elected deputies. If San Jose Department wins a third seat, it would be occupied by Tomas Castro (National Party-Herreraist faction).

In Canelones District, where 76 electoral offices must still count their votes and no candidate has received the number of votes required to be elected without resorting to party ticket percentages, Agapo Palomeque (National Party-Volonte group), Bernardino Ayala (National Party-Herreraist faction), and Jose Andujar (Herreraist faction) were elected deputies. Julio Lara (National Party-Volonte faction) might be elected deputy.

Within the Colorado Party, Dimur Larroque, Roberto Scarpa, and Julio Olivar Cabrera, all of whom are from the Batlleist Forum, were elected deputies. Within the Progressive Encounter, Luis Gallo (Uruguay Assembly) and Ramon Legnani (Socialist Party) were elected deputies. The New Sector won one seat for Ricardo Falero.

Legislators Elected in Central Uruguay

In Flores Department, Ricardo Berois Quinteros (National Party- Herreraist faction) and Ramon Pereira Paben (Colorado Party- Batlleist Forum) were elected deputies. Pereira Paben was reelected for the third time.

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In Florida Department, Lirio Hernandez (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) and Arturo Heber (National Party-Volonte group) were elected deputies.

In Durazno Department, Silvio Nunez (National Party-Herreraist faction) and Jorge Hunter (Colorado Party-Vaillant group) were elected deputies.

In Lavalleja Department, Gonazio Piana (National Party-Volonte group) and Gustavo Amen (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) were elected deputies.

Seats for Eastern Uruguay

In Maldonado Department, Jose Hualde (National Party-Volonte group), Alejo Fernandez Chavez (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum), and Dario Perez (Progressive Encounter-Uruguay Assembly] were elected deputies.

In Rocha Department, Yanet Punales (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) and Jose Carlos Cardoso (National Party-Herreraist faction) were elected deputies.

In Treinta y Tres Department, Diana Saravia (Colorado Party- Batlleist Forum) and Ruben Ferreira (National Party-National Rocha Movement) were elected deputies.

In Cerro Largo Department, Eber Da Rosa Vinoles (Colorado Party- Batlleist Forum) and Humberto Pica (National Party-Volonte group) were elected deputies.

Deputies Elected in Northern Uruguay

In Rivera Department, Eduardo Rodino (Colorado Party-Crusade 94) and Fernando Araujo (National Party-Herreraist faction) were elected deputies. Quite likely Alberico Cesar Segovia (Progressive Encounter-Uruguay Assembly) will win one seat.

In Tacuarembo Department, Fernando Saralegui (National Party- Volonte group) and Martha Montaner (Colorado Party-Batlleist Forum) were elected deputies.

Venezuela

Caldera Discusses Summit at News Conference

PA0712230094 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 7

[Unattributed report on news conference by President Rafael Caldera with foreign reporters on 6 December; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Rafael Caldera held a news yesterday with reporters accredited in Caracas and spoke about the Miami summit. The president will travel to Miami tomorrow.

Caldera said that there has not been such a meeting in many years.

"Venezuela has insisted on fighting corruption, not only as a domestic problem that afflicts our countries, but also to create a commitment of solidarity among all countries of the hemisphere and beyond to check the impunity enjoyed by those who commit crimes against the treasury, be they in the public or private sector. This commitment will facilitate the recovery of assets illegally taken from the treasury and the national community and allow the arrest of people who have committed this crime.

"A declaration in this regard has received a great deal of support from most of the countries in the hemisphere, specifically from the U.S. Government, which has repeatedly expressed its solidarity with this commitment.

"As Venezuela is the hemisphere's biggest oil producer after the United States, it is interested in an agreement to find ways to grant energy securities to the hemisphere. We would view a commitment on this as well as on a plan of action that would include meetings between sectors related to this field as an important achievement. The strengthening of the democratic system is a key element in these types of meetings, especially in this Miami meeting. A commitment to strengthen and sustain the democratic system implies, in our opinion, a commitment to struggle against poverty. We view a discussion of the struggle against poverty at the summit as very important. The summit should issue a declaration committing countries both nationally and at the hemispheric level to take the necessary measures to resolve the situation endured by large segments of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"In general terms, these are the three main points upon which Venezuela has focused its concern. Some national commentators think that bilateral issues such as the access of our reformulated gasoline to the U.S. market should be discussed, but the meeting is not organized for bilateral discussions among the various states. We have presented this matter at GATT, and we will present it to the new World Trade Organization which will replace GATT based on the conclusions of the Uruguay Round.

"In general terms, the Latin American countries support the idea of free trade. We propose a review of the position of those who, invoking alleged environmental motives or other protection arguments—which could lead negotiators into discussing dumping formulas—close the market doors of the hemisphere's richest countries to developing countries, thus forcing the latter into very costly and prolonged law suits to secure a favorable legal decision, but only after the Latin American exporters have suffered severe damage, severe harm. This proposal was also made at the UN General Assembly by various Latin American heads of state, specifically the president of Colombia and the foreign minister of Brazil, who have touched upon this matter, which is a very sensitive issue for the Latin American countries."

Asked what Venezuela expects from the Miami summit, Caldera answered:

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"We expect a categorical declaration on the struggle against corruption. This struggle against corruption implies a definite internal commitment by all nations to take measures to eliminate this scourge, which has done and is still doing much harm to the countries of the hemisphere. It also implies a commitment to allow investigations into bank deposits and into financial activities by criminal organizations, which will pave the way for extradition procedures, which will in turn enable those suspected of involvement in these activities to be tried by competent courts. Traditionally, there has been a certain degree of leniency with respect to the issue since corruption has been considered primarily a political occurrence. In general, most countries are disinclined, for political reasons, to extradite nationals who are out of their respective country. Thus it is necessary to establish that we are not dealing with political but common crimes. This would facilitate the process of capturing and sending those responsible to trial.

"There has been a traditional inviolability of banking secrecy. Fortunately, that is being revised. It makes it impossible to satisfactorily investigate bank accounts that stem from acts of corruption. We feel that a declaration calling for a commitment to facilitate the investigation of bank deposits is of great importance. We are referring specifically to corruption. In that regard, there is something very important: In both the United States and the EU, it is already been accepted as a very important step to declare payment of commissions for contracts to public employees illegal. Until now, it has been common practice in developed countries that public or private enterprises normally include as part of their expenses when signing contracts abroad a percentage that must be paid as commission to officials involved in the transaction. Declaring the payment of commissions an illegal and punishable act is gaining support in developed nations.

"We believe that a declaration on the need to establish guidelines to protect energy resources in the hemisphere is very important. Venezuela knows that it has the largest reserves in the hemisphere. It also knows that in case of a deficit of energy in the hemisphere, in any emergency situation, Venezuelan petroleum will be used to supply the energy needs of all the other countries on the continent. Recognizing this fact should guarantee, in a reasonable way, investment in and protection of the energy policy applied under normal conditions and in peacetime."

Caldera said his government has been promoting the struggle against poverty and has viewed with satisfaction the recognition of that concern by institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Asked to comment on the subject of oil, Caldera said:

"The energy issue has been proposed during several preparatory meetings for the Miami summit, and there have been different opinions when analyzing the topic. We have finally agreed on the need to discuss the subject and recognize the importance of protecting the hemisphere's oil reserves. We have also agreed on the urgent need to hold meetings of energy ministers, energy producing enterprises, and other sectors closely linked to the problem. Very interesting matters will be undoubtedly be discussed at those meetings, and Venezuelan oil cannot be excluded."

The Integration Issue

A Brazilian journalist asked if the fact that some countries have excellent economies while Venezuela is experiencing a crisis is not affecting integration. The president answered:

"On the contrary, I believe this difference supports integration. For example, when we had a flow of money that was not being duly used for the country's growth, our international trade, our balance of payments was not favorable because our money was being used to cover the deficit in sister countries, the neighboring countries. On the other hand, under the depressed situation that our country is experiencing, the commercial balance has favored us. For example, the Brazilians in Boa Vista who have money do not even want to receive dollars but are paid in local currency. They buy bolivares and buy many products in the border region.

"When the bolivar was a strong currency and the Colombian peso was weak, our trade balance with Colombia was unfavorable. Now that the Colombian peso is stronger and the bolivar weaker, our trade balance is favorable because the Colombians have plenty of money to purchase Venezuelan goods.

"Therefore, the differences in the economic situation do not have to be obstacles to trade and integration but actually promote economic relations."

Caldera was asked if he would be willing to change his economic model. He answered:

"Well, I believe each country has to face its own situation. Each country has its own conditions and its own solutions. Without disregarding the benefit of seeing the experiences of other countries, we have rejected the idea of copying other countries' recipes or the formulas that certain international organizations may be trying to impose. We have faced Venezuela's problems with a Venezuelan conscience and according to the needs and resources of Venezuela. For the sake of the economy, I can tell you that the worst habit presidents and economists can have is to impose deadlines. Generally they set deadlines and then try to explain why they were not met. What we can set are guidelines. For example, the exchange control measures we were forced to impose to avoid a catastrophe of uncontrolled capital flight following the crisis in the banking system were more rigorous at the beginning but are now being favorably modified. Facilities are being granted according to the country's possibilities. Of course, our intention was not

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and is not to impose an artificial control regimen but simply to avoid capital flight following the banking crisis.

"Now, the country's economy is showing results and is moving toward greater liberalization. There is currently no obstacle to the freedom to invest. We have guaranteed investors the right to repatriate their capital and to export their benefits. All of this, of course, within the guidelines established in any healthy economy, guidelines that any European country or any country in the world could establish. It would be irresponsible of me to set deadlines, but I can set the course we are going to take and I can guarantee it with facts. You can ask any member of the economic sector who is not predisposed to adverse positions, and he will tell you how the exchange system is becoming increasingly more flexible and how there have been no restrictions on international trade."

As for the restoration of guarantees, Caldera said they will be maintained so certain economic measures can be adopted, but there have been no attacks against public freedoms. There is freedom of the press, expression, assembly, and so forth.

The president had this to say about exchange controls:

"We do not like exchange controls or the control system. During my inauguration speech I announced there would be no exchange control; that was our firm goal then. At that time, we never imagined that the financial crisis would reach the magnitude, the extent, and the severity that it did. There was no other choice than to take the measure because after several weeks of testing various mechanisms proposed by experts at the Central Bank of Venezuela, the conclusion was reached that drastic measures had to be taken. There was no way to halt the loss of our international reserves by other mechanisms, no matter how ingenious they were.

"As you have said, and it is true, the international reserves have been recovered, which opens up new, quite favorable prospects. We believe that the best way to return to the free exchange system is progressively. A sudden decision and setting a deadline for suspending controls could make us fall into a serious situation that would then be even more dangerous than the previous one."

Regarding the coming ministerial changes, the president said there are two very important things people bet on in this country: the five-and-six at the race tracks and the possibility of cabinet changes. Nevertheless, it is a delicate issue and the ministers all know they will not last the full five-year term.

With the Monetary Fund

The head of state responded to one question as follows:

"I see no problem in having relations with the IMF. We have, of course, spoken with the envoys they have sent here and with their specialists. I see no problem in talking with such an important organization. That does not mean I am ready to submit meekly to whatever request they make if the government disagrees. It would seem that your question, in mentioning a specific document, is referring to a letter of surrender. I do not think such a thing has been presented and seems further and further away. Those who said we would have to sign a letter of surrender are those who said that our reserves would soon dwindle and that we would have to go crawling back to the IMF and beg them to save us. Fortunately, that is not the case, nor do I believe it will ever be."

Responding to other questions, he said: Venezuela has not yet ratified the G-3 [Group of Three] Treaty signed in Cartagena because of the resistance it met in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The committee members do not know Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo yet, but they are sure a personal and beneficial relationship between the two countries will begin at the Summit of the Americas in Miami.

To Depart for U.S.

PA0812180494 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Dec 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Rafael Caldera will raise the flag against corruption during his attendance at the hemispheric summit, which will be inaugurated in Miami tomorrow. The president is in Marcay, marking another anniversary of our Air Force. He will depart from this city for the United States.

Caldera will depart directly from Maracay to Miami, where he will attend the Summit of the Americas. He will travel on this occasion accompanied by only Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli and Foreign Trade Minister Alberto Coleto. The ministers of finance, investment, the central information office, and planning departed for that city yesterday to hold meetings with important Floridian media.

During his stay in Miami, Caldera will have a tight agenda that includes interviews with more than seven television stations, numerous radio stations, magazines, and dailies. Also included is a luncheon with representatives of the Miami trade and industrial sector and the inauguration of the Venezuelan Park Exposition at the Parrot Jungle. [previous two words in English]

Caldera is taking three basic points to the presidential hemispheric summit; that is, the hemispheric agreement on security, an agreement on the struggle against corruption, and the establishment of a hemispheric position in the struggle against poverty.

The president is scheduled to arrive in Miami during the afternoon. The president left a prerecorded message to the nation that will be aired via a national network this evening at 1930.

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Congress Ratifies Group of Three Agreement

PA0912031294 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Cecilia Cayone from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Congress has ratified the Group of Three [G-3] agreement creating a free trade zone among Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico. It is an event of great importance for the development of the three countries and, according to the explanation given by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman German Monzon, it also introduces the possibility of Venezuela entering NAFTA.

[Begin Monzon recording] Furthermore, it also creates the possibility for us to join NAFTA with the United States and Mexico. This multilateral instrument gives us an entree into NAFTA, which would broaden our markets even more. These treaties will increase world trade in countries that have historical ties, such as Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, and will also send us to NAFTA. I would say it sort of complements the World Trade Organization. [end recording]

Deputy German Monzon also said Venezuela confirms its opening to the international market with the approval of the G-3 agreement and the one that links us to GATT.

Caldera Addresses Nation on Summit, Economy

PA0912025794 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Address to the nation by President Rafael Caldera at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the invitation extended by U.S. President Bill Clinton, I am leaving for Miami to participate in the meeting for democratic heads of government and state of the hemisphere. The mere fact that all representatives of these countries will attend the meeting demonstrates the significance of this meeting. We cannot, however, exaggerate the expectations; we cannot solve bilateral problems, nor can we discuss entire programs and projects to face the many problems that are currently overwhelming us in America. Nevertheless, it is necessary to make a formal and serious commitment so that everyone who believes in the idea of defending and strengthening the democratic system can understand certain expressions of the normal course of events in each one of our nations.

Venezuela has insisted a great deal on the corruption issue. The fight against corruption cannot be only a domestic fight in every country; it must entail a solid commitment at the international level to ensure that those accused of committing crimes against public property will not find a comfortable way out in other countries by pretending to be people persecuted for political reasons when they really are perpetrators of punishable crimes against public property, prosperity, and the welfare of their own countries. We maintain that this fight against corruption is a basic necessity. The many heads of state, especially the U.S. President, have welcomed this measure. The U.S. Government has made statements supporting this Venezuelan position. The fight against corruption is similar to the fight against drug trafficking, which demands an international solid commitment to truly succeed in eradicating it.

We also believe it is essential to make a statement on the hemispheric security surrounding energy matters. Venezuela has very rich sources of energy: oil and gas. Energy is the guarantee to face any emergency in all countries of the hemisphere. This, however, entails commitments, guidance, cooperation, and understanding so that we will be fairly treated during normal times in order to appropriately offer our help during times of emergency.

Moreover, we have stressed that the struggle to strengthen democracy necessarily involves the fight against poverty. Poverty is the enemy of democracy, because hungry people hardly feel they have to fight to defend their freedom and human rights. Lately, we have made international and very reputable organizations and developed countries recognize that the fight against poverty is a priority. This fight, however, cannot be based simply on offering assistance and aid in the serious situations faced by all developing countries but on making the economy care about the need to serve human beings, which is its main objective.

We must also succeed in making our presence in the world withstand the discrediting campaigns that some international financial sectors, especially those Venezuelans call the package grievers [viudas del paquete], are conducting. These people are powerful and have much influence; they are trying to discredit our country and to discourage the spontaneous and continuing movement that investors have as they invest in Venezuela.

We have maintained and will maintain a very worthy position. We are truly conscious that we must save and maintain the sovereignty of our country. We must make our own decisions. We are willing to hold cordial talks with international organizations and developed countries. More important yet, we are making them recognize that we Venezuelans must resolve our main problems by involving our own people, our own factors, our own arguments, and our own decisions. We are promoting and practicing international cooperation based on talks; we are trying to maintain good relations with our neighbors, the whole continent, and the whole world while believing in the spirit of the Venezuelan people. We are defending and supporting the dignity of Venezuela.

And no doubt this is greatly linked to the 5 December anniversary, which we just marked, because the package grievers do not forget that on 5 December the people of Venezuela issued a tremendous verdict condemming what they represented. At the same time, the people of Venezuela recall that on 5 December they voted for

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hope. We are defending that hope. The people of Venezuela are aware of the problems and difficulties we have had to overcome. The crisis of the financial system, the banking crisis, has been so great that knowledgeable people feel it was the worst in the world in proportion with Venezuela's gross domestic product. That crisis encouraged the rush to obtain foreign currency, a process of devaluation, and the depletion of our international resources. Had we not stopped those things with the exchange control and the strong measures we had to adopt, there is no telling where they would have taken us. It was a hemorrhage to which we had to apply a tourniquet.

That was not the only problem. For instance, there was the problem of loans to farmers overwhelmed by the high interest rates. We had to take measures that entailed a serious fiscal sacrifice. Medium- and small-sized industries were also in a situation of true anguish because they could not really endure the burden that the banks' interest rates imposed on their shoulders. We had, in turn, the problem of wages. We took effective measures to considerably increase the minimum wage.

We have coped with the situation educators faced. Knowledgeable persons, university presidents, school principals, education professionals realized Venezuelans did not want to go into teaching, that the education field is running the risk of being deserted. The requirements needed to enter this field had to be lowered because they were not attractive. Well, we had a struggle to raise the salaries of educators, teachers, pardon me, doctors, or paramedics. We had to cope with that need by also making big efforts and sacrifices because our budget resources are, despite the amounts that appear in total, truly limited.

The Venezuelan budget leaves little room for action to the government; 34 percent of this budget goes to service the foreign debt; 20 percent has to be given, according to constitutional provisions and laws, to the states. Less than half remains, and out of that amount, we must pay defense costs, we must maintain a defensive system that becomes more and more necessary and demands greater attention and care. Another part goes to our relations with the rest of the world. It is indispensable for our foreign service to act in an efficient manner to be able to face the smear campaign against us in the world.

As I said before, there were the salaries of teachers, doctors, and paramedics, and all the other public servants, whom we cannot throw into the streets and who rightly demanded a substantial salary increase to be able to offset the drop in their basic salary [salario nominal]. On the other hand, there is the requirement, such as the expenditures of universities, which are so demanding and delicate. My university friends and colleagues find it very difficult to understand that the financial problem does not pertain to them only but to the whole nation.

We have been facing all of this. We have had to orient the struggle against inflation, which we came very close to winning when the immensity and depth of the financial system problem erupted. Then, there is the ongoing struggle against corruption. For that reason, I decided to name a presidential commissioner, a highly respected and qualified person, to oversee public administration. We are investigating and clarifying all the charges made out of good or bad faith of irregular actions in the administration. Many of those charges are sufficiently explained. Those that turn out to be true force us to take the appropriate actions.

This whole struggle has been very hard. The struggle against crime, the purge of police corps, as well the proper reorganization and outfitting of this corps, is a process that cannot be carried out in a short time. We are, however, aware of the need to face this problems that takes diverse forms. There is, for example, the problem of neighborhood criminal gangs who fight each other as armed bands or the problem of young men who join middle- or high-class groups and carry out hold-ups aggressively and with impunity not to satisfy their hunger but to satisfy themselves or satisfy their drug dealers.

I can tell the country, however, that despite all those problems and circumstances, we are striving and working with optimism, faith, and joy. All segments welcomed with goodwill and in a positive manner the economic stabilization and recovery program. Now, some say it has not been implemented yet. It is being implemented, it is being implemented, of course, in a responsible manner. The different aspects it deals with are becoming manifest in a positive manner. This week, the Council of Ministers decided to submit to the Congress the program on strategic ventures on oil matters. This will not mean the country will receive immediate large amounts of financial recourses but will be a guarantee that in the years to come, primarily beyond the medium term, we will be able to maintain and increase oil production to ensure what is indispensable for the country's economic subsistence.

The Council of Ministers also approved the privatization process at the Venezuelan Guayana Corporation. It was a national demand and the program has already been submitted to the National Congress so that the definitive steps can be taken. Some enterprises will become mixed enterprises and others will be given the solutions requird by each one of them.

The privatization process began with the Regional Development Bank in Coro, a process that was very interesting because it was privatized with national capital. The bank was sold at 30 percent above the basic estimate done by the Venezuelan Investment Fund for the bidding process.

The privatization of the Moruco Hotel and other hotels is under way. We are implementing this plan in good faith without exaggerations but with a true sense of responsibility, especially with the desire that moves us, which is the desire to serve the country.

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The program for the granting of contracts through the concession system will begin with positive announcements before the end of the year. There have been delays because we have had to conduct plenty of studies to guarantee that it will be done seriously and responsibly and to avoid the adoption of attitudes that are not completely clear-cut, that are not specifically guided toward the complete realization of such works.

The tourism program has already been implemented. For example, we have already implemented a program for tourist inns. More than 1 billion bolivares will be allocated for this program. Opportunities will not only be provided for domestic tourism, but also for international tourism. Ecological tourism is an area that is being explored. We are determined to create a tourism awareness in the country so that the country can realize that we need to encourage, guarantee, and protect tourism because it will bring us the resources we need and which we currently lack.

Social programs have not only been implemented, they are already yielding positive results. The school lunch program, for example, is a program that the country demands. The nutrition programs for the poor are being implemented. Programs against malnutrition are being implemented. Farmers markets, which have had a great success and which have spread everywhere, are becoming indispensable for the residents of Caracas and of the larger cities and towns in the country.

Youth training centers are operating well. A program, which I especially cherish, is the low-income housing program. With all the difficulties, with the limitations we have had to face, the low-income housing program is moving forward. The figures the Urban Development Ministry have been announcing to the public indicate that the programs are moving on just fine. We are providing effective solutions to meet the fundamental needs of the Venezuelan families.

All of these programs are under way in search of what we essentially need, which is greater confidence. That is what the package grievers are trying to destroy. That is what those who want to subject us to humiliating conditions to enjoy their excessive benefits are trying to destroy. We are involved in the struggle to recover our confidence. We have not lost our hope in the future. The Program for the Development of the South is a program we are reactivating. It is a program we are implementing with a great sense of responsibility. We are reviewing all technical aspects of the program. We are working in this matter for future generations. Unfortunately, in Venezuela our immediate urgencies, which are so many, make us lose sight of the future.

We are thinking about an integrated Venezuela. The program for the sustainable development of the South by respecting the ecology, nature, and the inalienable rights of the Indian communities is a program that encourages us and that fills us with faith. We believe in ~ great Venezuela, we believe in an optimistic Venezuela. We believe in a happy Venezuela.

The Christmas spirit is present among us. I wish all my fellow compatriots with affection, with faith, and with devotion: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 1995!

Guyana

President Opens Party Congress, Warns of 'External Forces'

FL0412212294 Bridgetown CANA in English 1622 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 4, CANA—Guyana's President Cheddi Jagan has criticised what he described as external forces "which have their own agenda" for trying to force his two year-old Peoples Progressive Party [PPP]/Civic government to conform to their dictates.

Speaking to hundreds of deligates, prominent businessmen and members of the diplomatic corps at the People's Progressive Party's 25th congress which opened Saturday in the capital Georgetown, President Jagan said his party has as its objective the development of a "state of national democracy".

"In establishing such a national democratic state, it is necessary for our party to develop an elastic balance between conformity and transformation.

"We are under pressure to conform from external and internal forces which have their own agendas and from internal factors such as a wrecked economy which we inherited (from the People's National Congress government)," the 76 year-old president told his audience.

According to Jagan, this posed for the government a large number of constraints which eventually forced it to negotiate a new structural adjustment programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). That agreement was concluded in May this year. Last month at a press conference held at the presidential secretariat, Jagan had said he had no use for the IMF and the World Bank and that agreements worked out with these two agencies were only done because of the "mess my party had inherited from the PNC [People's National Congress] regime".

Saturday's remarks by the president however, seemed to strike a more conciliatory tone.

"We have our own ideas and principles and in and out of government international and national experiences about reconstruction and transformation.

"By dealing with our situation objectively and scientifically with facts and figures we have succeeded...In creating a good relationship with the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), CDB (Caribbean Development Bank), the European Union and our bilateral aid donors.

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"We thank them all for the great goodwill they have shown to us and the generosity which they extended to us to bring free and fair electons in our country," Jagan declared to thunderous applause from the floor.

In an uncharacteristically short address, President Jagan said the state envisaged by his government is based on a "partnership of all classes...committed to political democracy, social and ecological justice".

"It is neither a workers socialist state nor a monopoly capital state. It allows for the healthy growth of the capitalist sector but aims to prevent an unbridled private sector development in which the interest and welfare of the people in general and the local business in particular are stifled by a monopoly state sector," he observed.

The PPP's congress was ending Sunday with a closing address by Foreign Minister Clement Rohee.

More on Jagan's Plans To Discuss Poverty at Miami Summit

FL0912013694 Bridgetown Caribbean Broadcasting Union Television in English 1810 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Debbie de Gannes, Trinidad and Tobago Television correspondent; from the "CBUTV Caribvision News Feed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Guyana president says at next week's Summit of the Americas, he intends to put forward a number of proposals to deal with poverty and underdevelopment in the region. He says for the Caribbean to ever hope to compete internationally, the first thing it needs is debt relief from the lending agencies:

[Begin Guyanese President Cheddi Jagan recording] We must do things to solve this unemployment problem. We need aid in the South; debt relief; more grants and loans, soft loans, because loans on normal commercial terms—especially when we have to do infrastructure things, which are not so profitable—puts us in serious jeopardy later on. Most of us are plagued with debt payments problems; therefore, we need debt relief, cancellation of debts, and soft loans—40 years to pay, small interest, 10 years moratorium, and so on. Like the Caribbean islands want that, but they're not getting it. [end recording]

Dr. Jagan is also calling for the establishment of a regional development fund. He says this could be achieved through a number of revenue-earning measures, such as an international tax on fuel and a (?three)-percent cut on military spending:

[Begin Jagan recording] This money which I am talking about, we have spelled it out, put it in an independent body, like the UN, democratize the UN, and not allow only the big powers to control it. You need to reform the United Nations, because the General Assembly, which is made up of all the nations of the world, they don't have the power. The power really rests with the so-called executive of the Security Council. And let aid be given according to need. [end recording]

Dr. Jagan says for the proposals to succeed, they must receive the support of both government and nongovernmental agencies. It is also his intention to put forward his case at next year's UN summit on social development, in Denmark.

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